Volume 1

Komi Can't Communicate

Tomohito Oda

VOLUME
1
Komi Can't Communicate
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Contents

Communication 1 Totally Normal — 3

Communication 2 Peaceful — 12

Communication 3 A Suspicious Individual — 18

Communication 4 Not Very Good — 21

Communication 5 Wanting to Talk — 28

Communication 6 Wanting to Apologize — 36

Communication 7 One More Time — 51

Communication 8 Scary — 56

Communication 9 Old Friends — 59

Communication 10 Dark Past — 70

Communication 11 Not a Killer — 76

Communication 12 Errand Girl — 91

Communication 13 First Errand — 101

Communication 14 Nervous — 113

Communication 15 Going to School — 132

Communication 16 Cell Phone — 139

Communication 17 Class Council Election — 151

Communication 18 Accidental Phone Call — 160

Communication 19 Saito — 169

Bonus — 188

The term "communication disorder"...

...describes a cluster of symptoms that cause people to experience difficulty interacting with others.

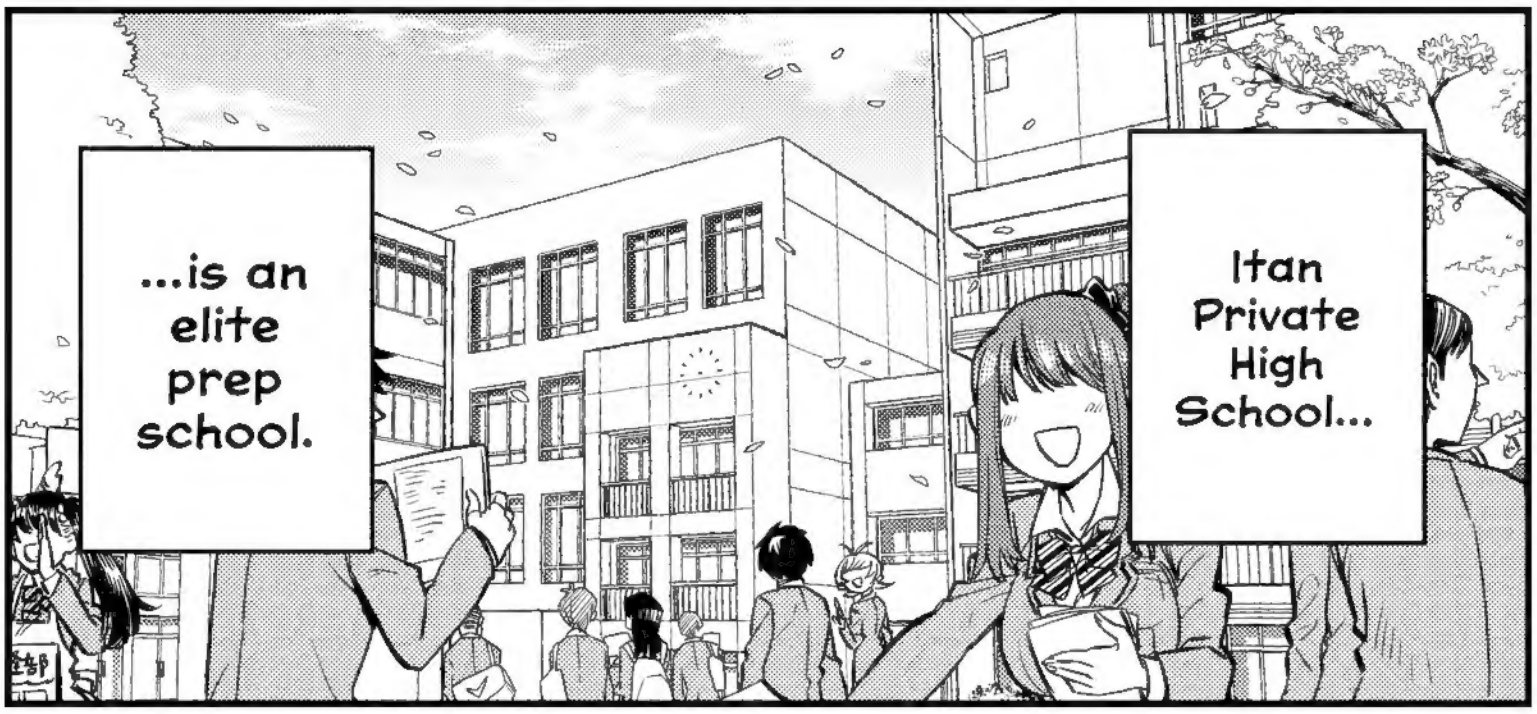
Those suffering from this disorder may appear unfriendly.

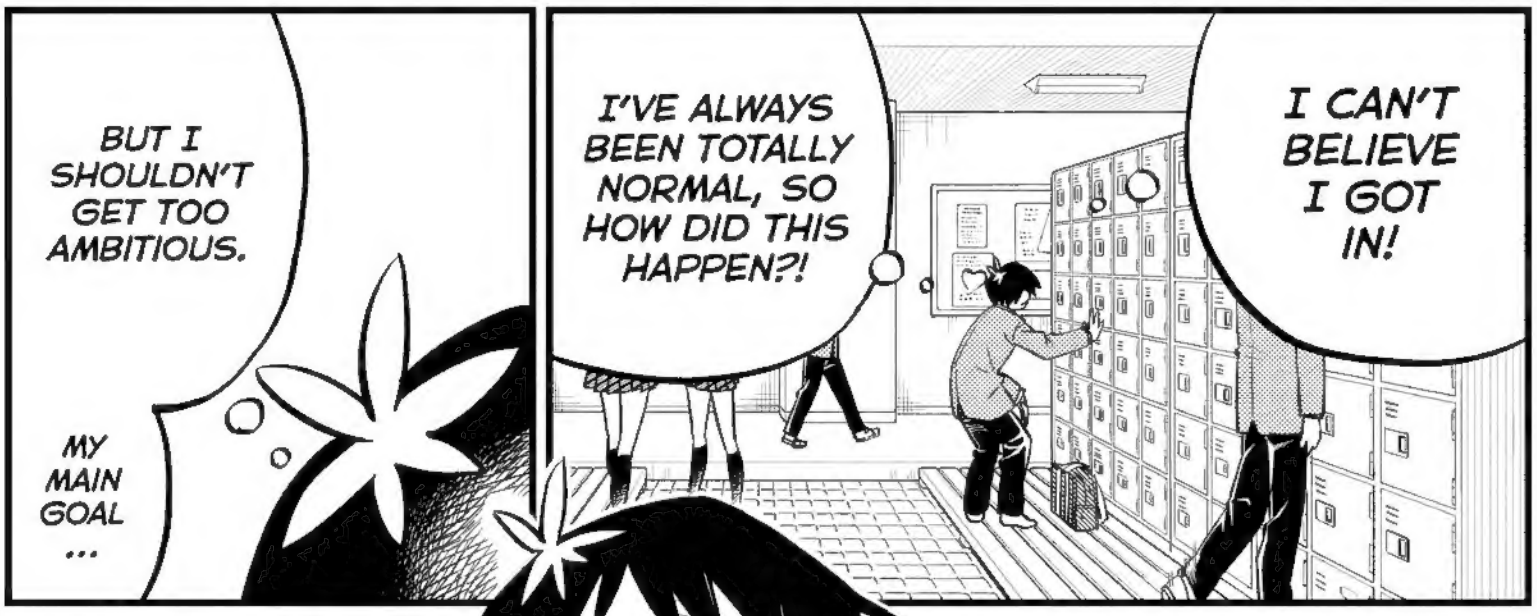
But the truth is...

Komi Can't Communicate
SHOSUKE DOESN'T NEED TO COMMUNICATE.
HITOMI TADANO ISN'T ORDINARY.
NAKANAKA IS IMMATURE.
YAMAI IS AGGRESSIVE.
NARUSE IS A NARCISSIST.
NAJIMI OSANA IS SOCIABLE.
NETSUNO IS ENTHUSIASTIC!!
IS KATAI HARD-CORE?
AGARI GETS NERVOUS.
OTORI IS EASY-GOING.
...that while they appear stand-offish...
...they actually want to have relation-ships.
TADANO IS ORDINARY.

Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 1: Totally Normal





...IS THE SHORTCUT TO HAP-PINESS.

BUT FITTING IN AND NOT STANDING OUT...

I KNOW.

-Grew his hair long
-Popped his shirt collar
-Wore Sanskrit T-shirts
-Used the online handle t JIN-JIN t
-Often struck poses that hurt his neck
-Began practicing bass (and quit after a week)
-Drastically plucked his eyebrows
-Used a photo sticker booth picture for his Tweeter profile
-Traveled by bicycle
-Worked on a novel for two years and received withering criticism when his little sister read it

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAD A HARD TIME IN JUNIOR HIGH BECAUSE I TRIED TO STAND OUT!

-Showed no emotion
-Constantly complained he didn't have any energy
-Used "bango!" as a sound effect

IT'S DEFINITELY NOT THAT!

HUFF

HUFF

SAYING HELLO IS IMPOR-TANT, SO...

IF THAT'S YOUR LOCKER, WE MUST BE IN THE SAME CLASS!

GOOD MOR-

ULP!

VIVA ELITE SCHOOLS!

W-WOW! SHE'S PRETTY! THIS REALLY IS AN ELITE SCHOOL!

Way too hyper

...

...

...

...?

HUH?

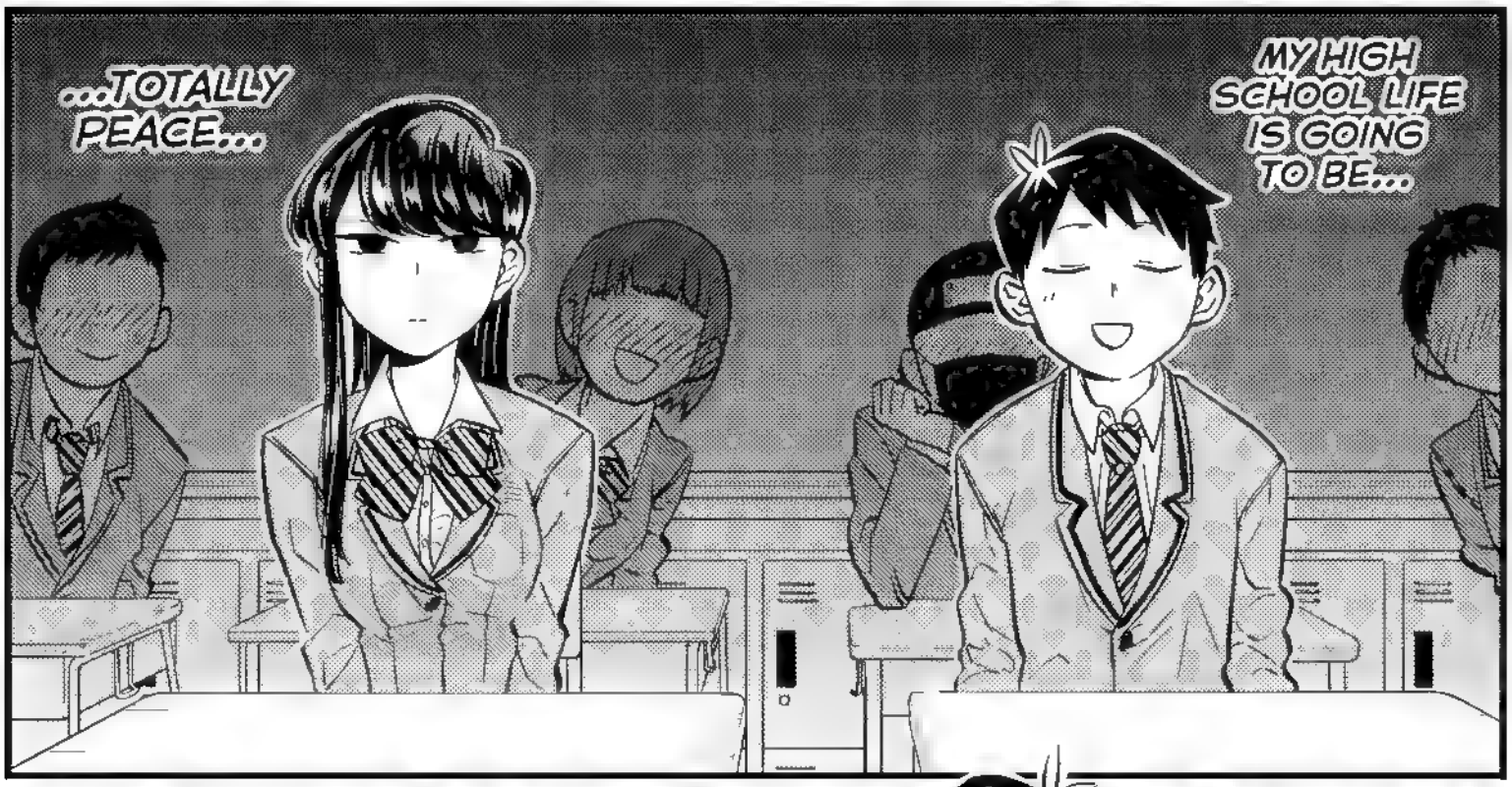
CREEEAK

HUUUUUUUUUH?!

DADOOO

Communication 1 — The End

Communication 2: Peaceful



Komi...

...on the very first day of school.

...was already the class princess...

She smells good!

Gyah!

Whoa!

BUT, UM...

I'M HAPPY I'M SITTING NEXT TO THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN SCHOOL.

Tadano's high school life was already in rough waters.

I'M PICKING UP A MURDEROUS VIBE!!

YOUR NAME'S TADANO, HUH? MWA HA HA...

IF HE DIES, I'LL GET HIS SEAT.

IT'S ASSASSINATION TIME!

TIME TO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES.

M-M-MY N-NAME IS AGARI! IT'S N-N-N...

...NICE TO MEET Y-Y-YOU!

PHEW

GOOD! AT LEAST THE STUDENTS ARE WELCOMING.

SNICKER

HA HA HA! BE AGGRESSIVE, B.E. AGARIESSIVE!

CHAK

NEXT.

.....
.....
...?

.....
.....

...

...

DOOOM

DA...

KTOK KTOK KTOK KTOK

KTAK

WAAAH

Shoko Komi

KTAK

HUH?!

FUMP

Communication 2 — The End

Komi

MAKE A NOTE SO YOU REMEMBER WHAT TO BRING TOMORROW.

KPOK

Communication 3: A Suspicious Individual

Wha!

Incredible... Amazing...

VRRR

SHE'S AS PRETTY AS A PICTURE, NO MATTER WHAT SHE'S DOING!

Eraser

POINK

PLOP

FOOSH

UM, YOU DROPPED YOUR ERA...

FALLING

Com-pass

...SER.

ESHHH

WHAAAA-AAAAAAT THE HECK IS WITH THAT GUY?!

Ninja

TCH!

GRRRRRR

SWIP

IF I DON'T RETURN IT FAST, HE'LL KILL ME!

NOMO

?!

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

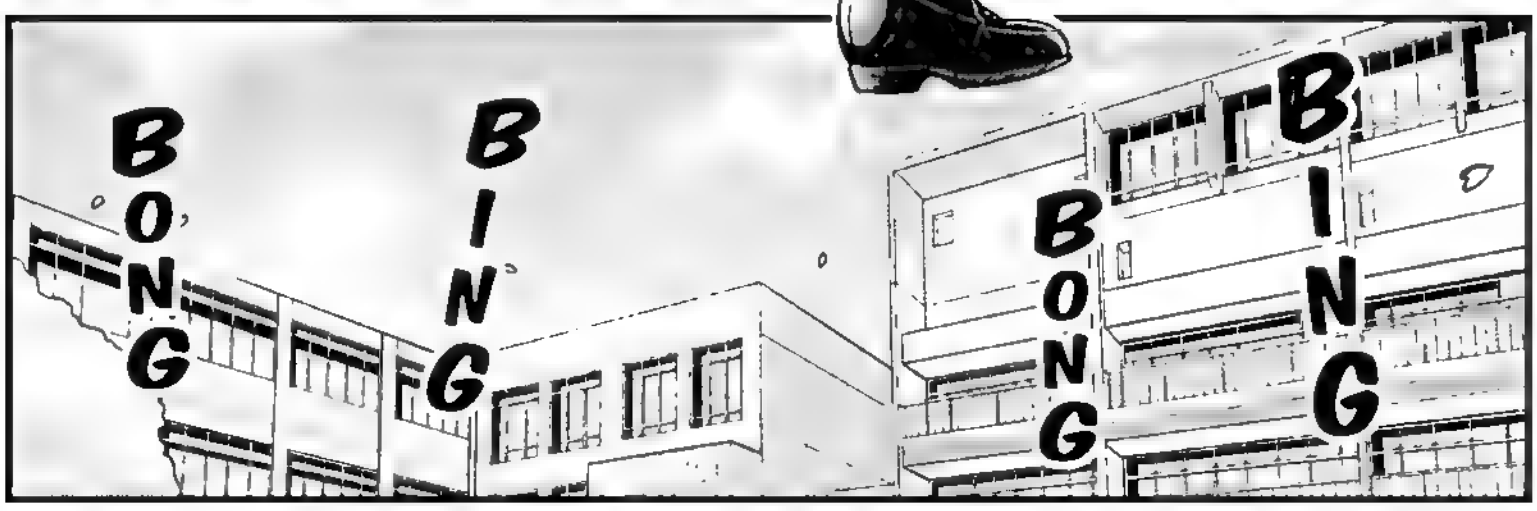
TREMBLE

Tadano pretends he saw nothing.

Communication 3 — The End

Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 4: Not Very Good



TODAY, I STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.

Next, assemble in the gym!

Bow!

On your feet!

MY NAME IS HITOHITO TADANO.

...IS TO NOT MAKE WAVES.

KOMIIIII

DASH DASH DASH DASH DASH DASH

MY GOAL AS A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT...

THO?!

I'M NORMAL IN EVERY WAY, SO IT'S THE PERFECT OBJECTIVE FOR–

...that **was** the plan.

I love you!

Are you on LINE?

Where do you live?

Komi !!

At least ...

WHY DO I...

HM?

... DON'T WANT... TALK IN FRONT OF

WAS I ASLEEP?

A VOICE?

...

HM?

UH-OH! EVERY-ONE'S IN THE GYM!!

JOLT

MEOW!

SWEAT

...HEAR ANY-THING!

I DIDN'T ...

OH...

...UM ...

OH NO!

I GOTTA SMOOTH THIS OVER!

I HEARD MY CLASS-MATE MEOW AND I SAID I DIDN'T HEAR IT EVEN THOUGH IT'S OBVIOUS I TOTALLY DID! THIS COULD LEAVE A SCAR FOR LIFE!!

NO... WAIT !!

RATTLE RATTLE

WHOOSH

...KOMI!

UM...

ARE YOU...

...NOT VERY GOOD AT TALKING TO PEOPLE?

WHAT AM I SAYING?!

SHTMP

I'M SO RUDE!

N-no, uh, I just meant .

um

...um

TRMBL

TRMBL

TRMBL

OF COURSE SHE IS! SHE'S THE CLASS PRINCESS !!

IN-SANELY RUDE!

!

FWIP

Ho.

...ho ho
ho ho ho
ho ho ho
ho ho ho
TRMBL
TRMBL
TRMBL

IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN COMMUNICATE?

Ho ho ho ho ho h

IT'S NO USE...

Ho ho ho ho ho ho

TRMBL TRMBL TRMBL

TRMBL TRMBL

UM, WHAT WERE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

!

AHA!

MAYBE WE CAN WRITE ON THE BLACK-BOARD!

Like you did for your introduction!

Yamai

SACRED

Shoko Komi

DO NOT ERASE!

LOVE

IDIOT

FOREVER

KILL

!

KOMI THE CAT...

Writing on the black-board

SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH SCRATCH SCRITCH SCRATCH

Komi Can't Communicate

How did you know that I'm bad at talking to people?

No.

...I JUST SENSED IT.

HUH?

WELL...

HASN'T ANYONE ELSE EVER NOTICED?

...REALLY?

...UM...

OH...

...RUN OUT OF STUFF TO TALK ABOUT!

WE'VE ALREADY...

Tadano took flight.

I CAN'T STAND THIS!

!

SO I BETTER GET GOING!

W-WE'RE SUP-POSED TO BE IN THE GYM!

AGH!

Wait.

UH...

But he couldn't get away!!

W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-

W...

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

SHAKE

W-W-

W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-W-

W-W-W-

W-W...

DOES SHE WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOME-THING?

SKIRK SKIRK

I couldn't finish my lunch.

...?! ...?

SO... YOU'RE HUNGRY?

I couldn't finish my lunch.

Actually, I want to talk.

? ?

OH...

But. actually I want to talk.

I get nervous in front of people. My face freezes up and I get scared.

Or they kneel and bow.

Or they run away or pass out.

People get uneasy around me.

GLOOM

I know that.

I think they hate me.

I'm certain they do. Because I'm so difficult to talk to.

SHE'S GOT IT SO WRONG...

TRMBL

I had a hard time eating by myself at lunch.

And watching everyone chat as they ate.

It hurt.

Every day for three years I tried to join.

In junior high

KTAK

But I couldn't speak.

No matter how hard I tried.

I just couldn't speak.

What should I do?

What should I do?

What should I do?

What if they say I'm boring? What if I can't smile right?

What if they reject me? What's the next conversation?

How can I start a conversation? Then what happens?

What should I do?

KRAK

What if

What should I do? How can I start a conversation? Then what happens? What if they reject me? What's the next conversation? What if they say I'm boring? What if I can't smile right? What if we don't become friends? What if they ignore me? What if they think I'm weird?

What if I'm like this my whole life?

I just couldn't speak.

...!

...

HUFF

HUFF

I wanted to suggest eating together.

...IC ...

HI ...

HERE. WIPE YOUR TEARS.

THIS GIRL...

...!

...JUST SAYING THAT?

SHE HAD THAT MUCH TROUBLE ...

... HI... C...

SHE ISN'T THE SCHOOL PRINCESS OR AN UNAPPROACHABLE BEAUTY.

SHF

...I ...

?!

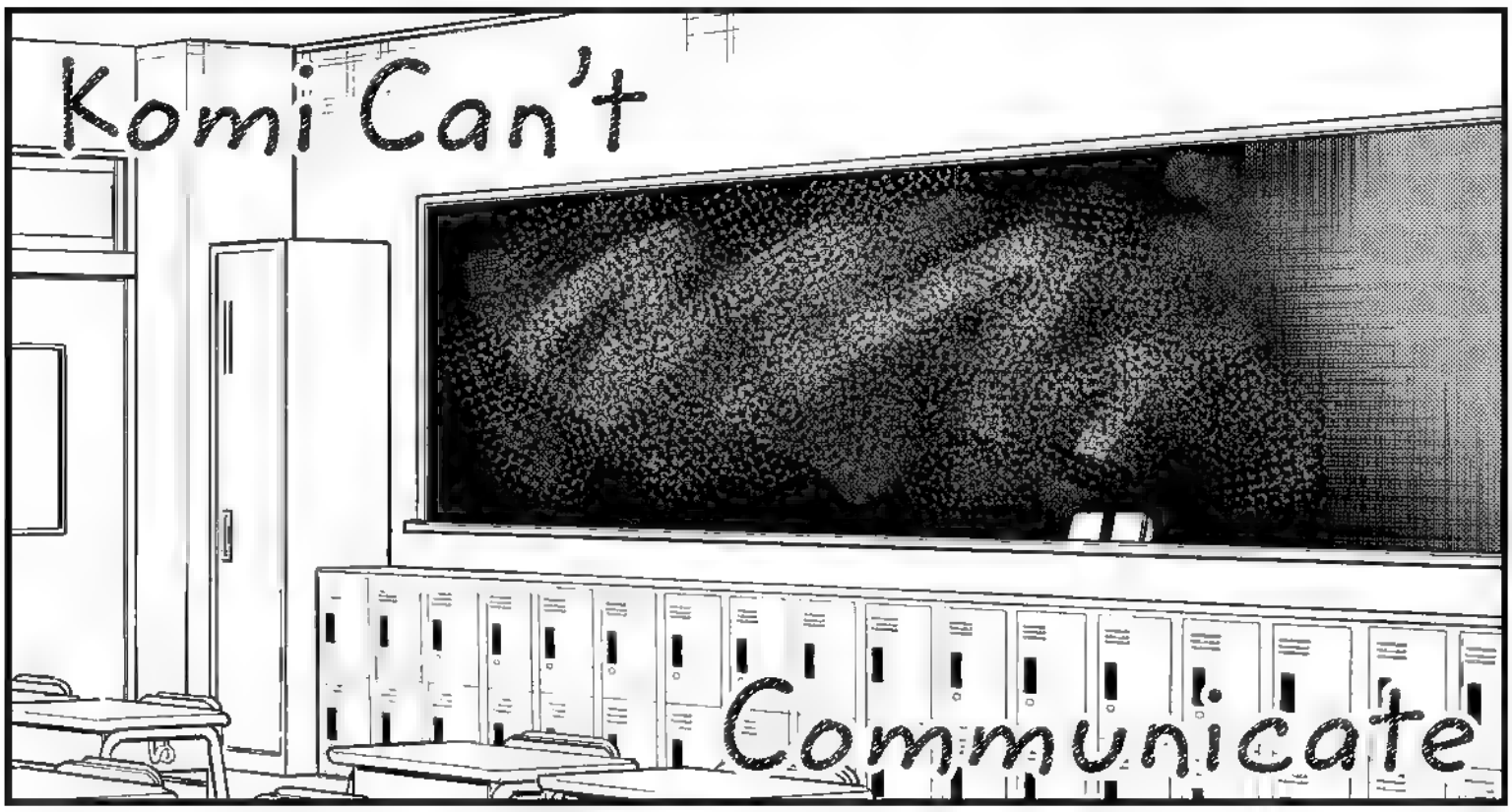
Sorry, it's just hiccups.

HIC

HIC

SHE'S JUST A NORMAL...

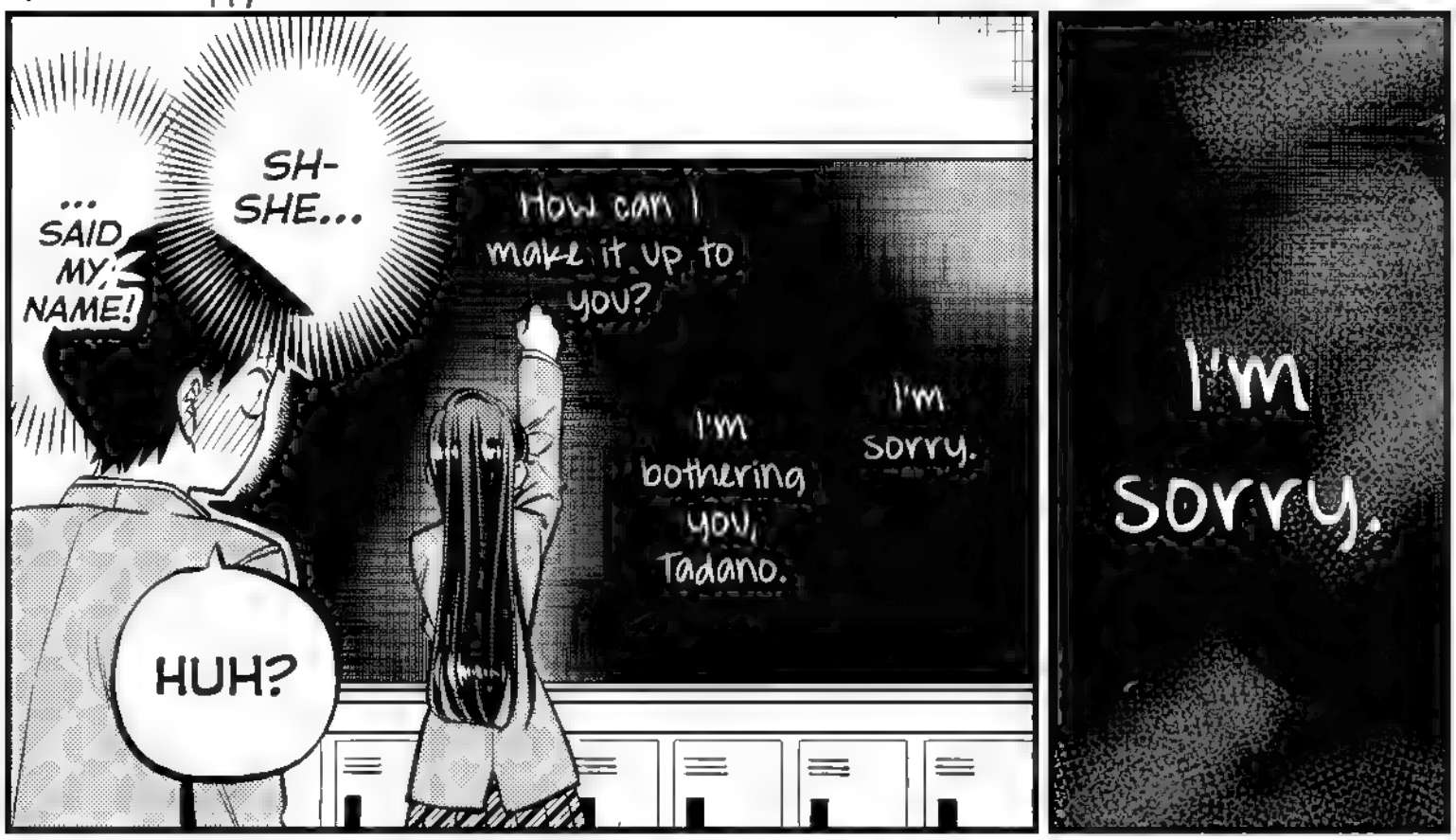
Communication 5 — The End


Komi Can't
Communicate

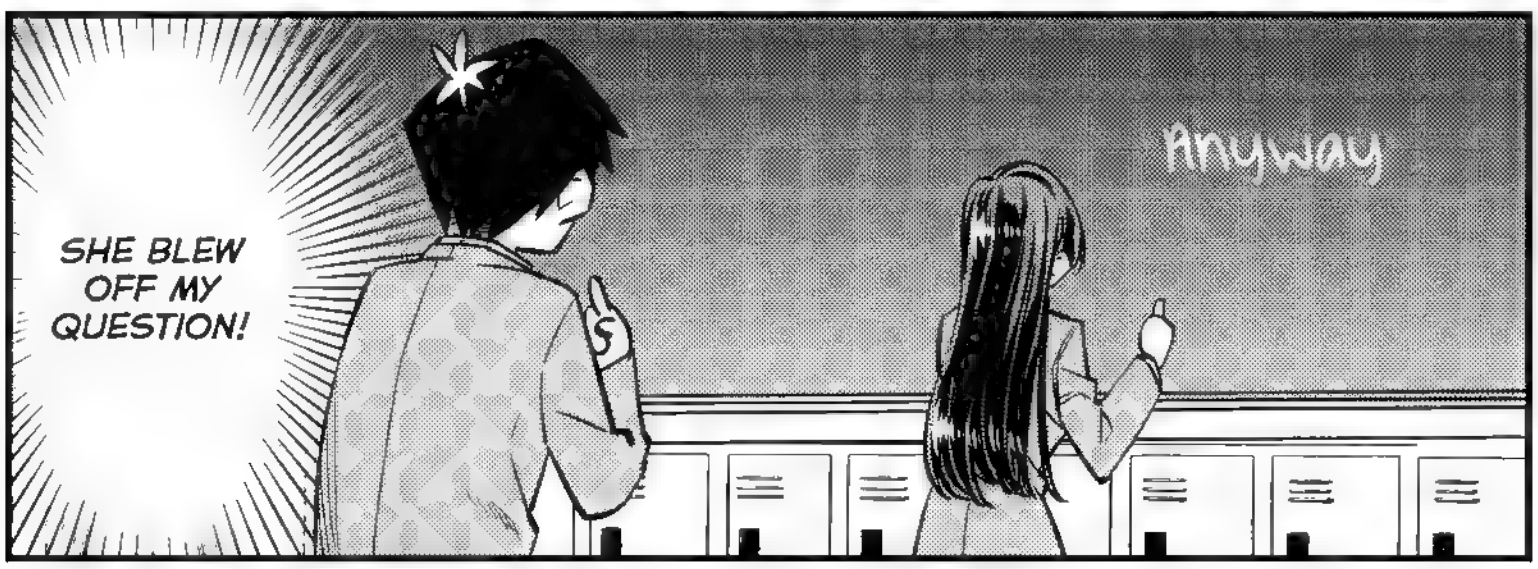
Sorry.
Your hiccups...
DID THEY STOP?

I can't talk about it.
What's fun & what makes me happy & my failures & schoolwork & what was on TV last night & the weather...
Other people can do it, but I can't.
I can't even say hello.

↓ Sorta happy


SH-SHE...
...SAID MY NAME!
HUH?
How can I make it up to you?
I'm bothering you, Tadano.
I'm sorry.
I'm sorry.

DID YOU DO SOMETHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR?
I don't remember.


SHE BLEW OFF MY QUESTION!
Anyway

Sorry for talking too much.

I'm sorry.

Anyway, I wanted to apologize.

Just forget about all of this.

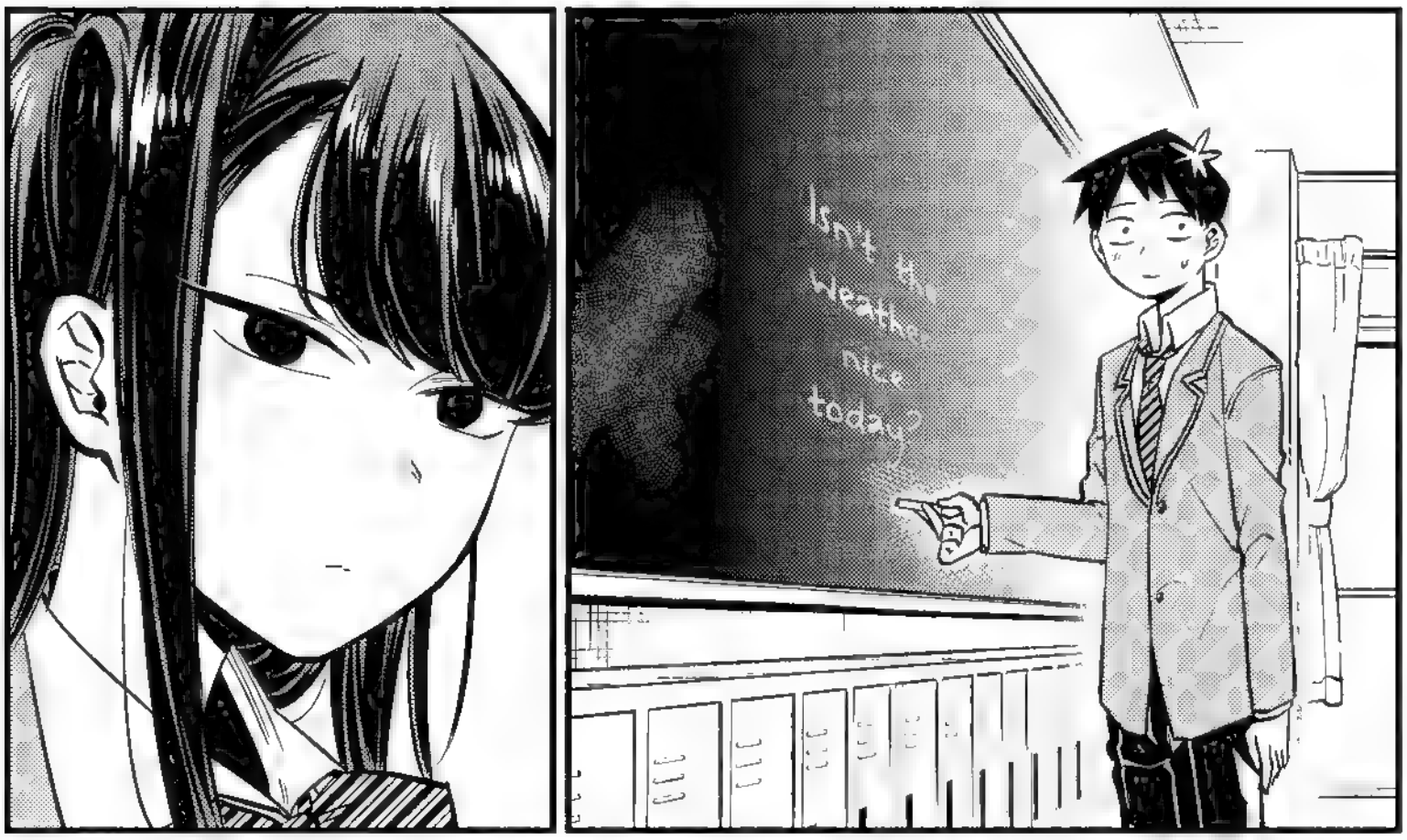
Sorry for talking too much.

Goodbye.

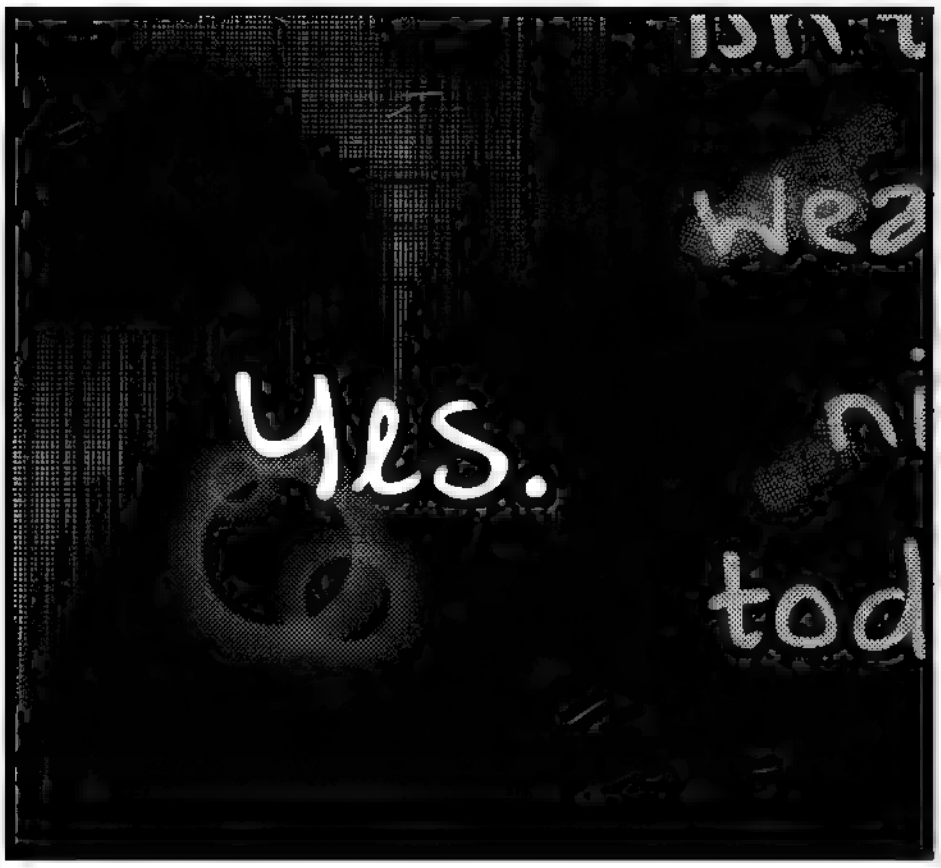
SKRIK

SKRIK

Isn't the weather nice today?


Isn't the weather nice today?

Isn't the weather nice today?

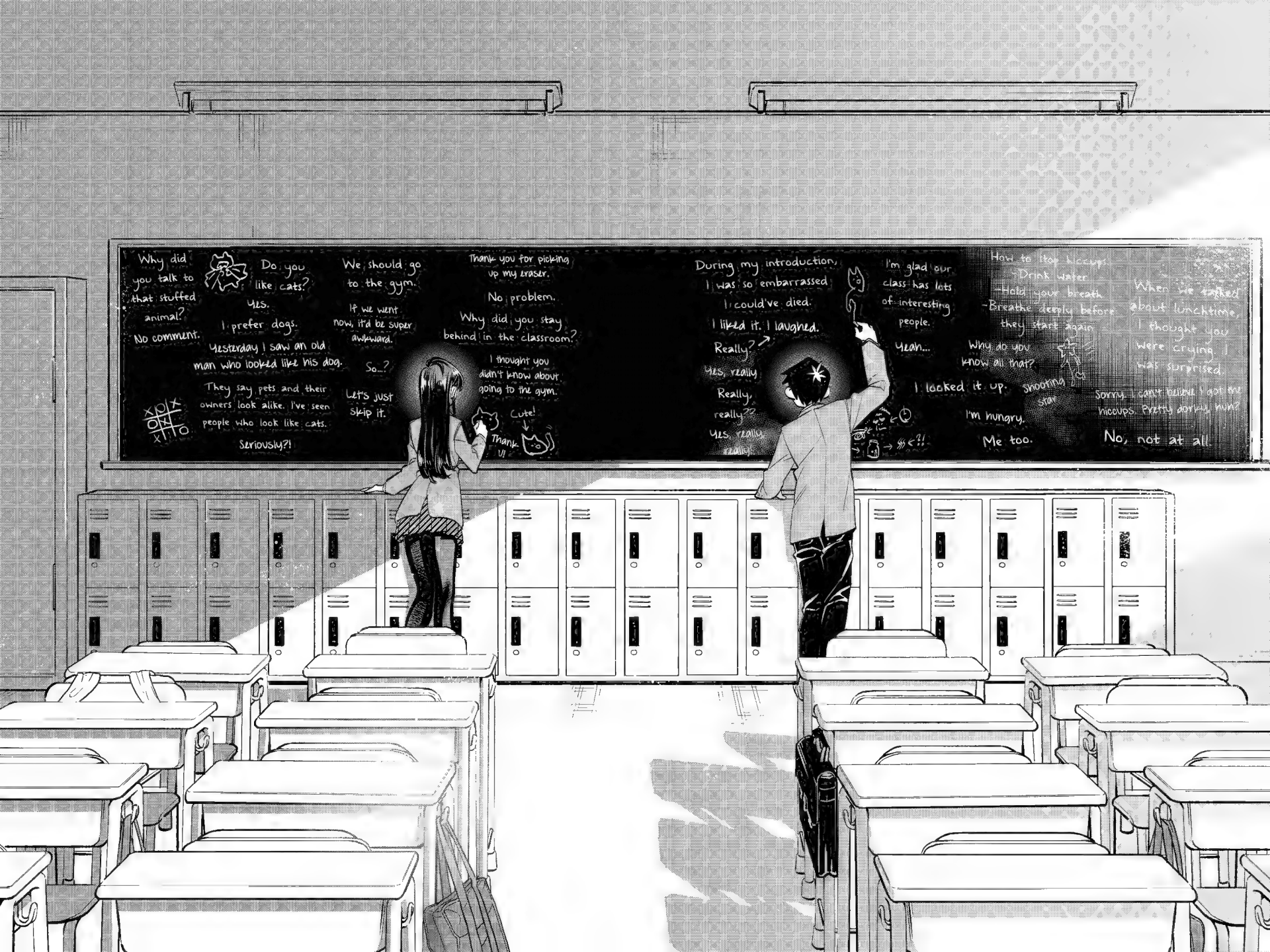

Yes.

The cherry blossoms were beautiful.

Let's try some more...

Heart-beat

BABOOM


Why did you talk to that stuffed animal?
No comment.
Do you like cats?
Yes.
I prefer dogs.
Yesterday I saw an old man who looked like his dog.
They say pets and their owners look alike. I've seen people who look like cats.
Seriously?!
We should go to the gym.
If we went now, it'd be super awkward.
So...?
Let's just skip it.
Thank you for picking up my eraser.
No problem.
Why did you stay behind in the classroom?
I thought you didn't know about going to the gym.
Cute!
Thank u!
During my introduction, I was so embarrassed I could've died.
I liked it. I laughed.
Really?
Yes, really
Really, really??
Yes, really
really!
I'm glad our class has lots of interesting people.
Yeah...
I looked it up.
I'm hungry.
Me too.
How to stop hiccups:
-Drink water
-Hold your breath
-Breathe deeply before they start again
Why do you know all that?
Shooting star
When we talked about lunchtime, I thought you were crying. I was surprised.
Sorry, can't believe I got my hiccups pretty dorky, huh?
No, not at all

To make 100 friends.

What's your dream, Komi?

Please don't laugh.

Then I'll be your first friend and help you make 99 more.

HUFFF

SKRIK

SKRIK

?

TENSE

SKRIK

SWIF SWUF

S-S-SORRY!! PRETTY OBNOXIOUS, RIGHT?! ME?! YOUR FIRST FRIEND?! SORRY! I JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY!!

UF

Then I'll be your first friend and help you make 99 more.

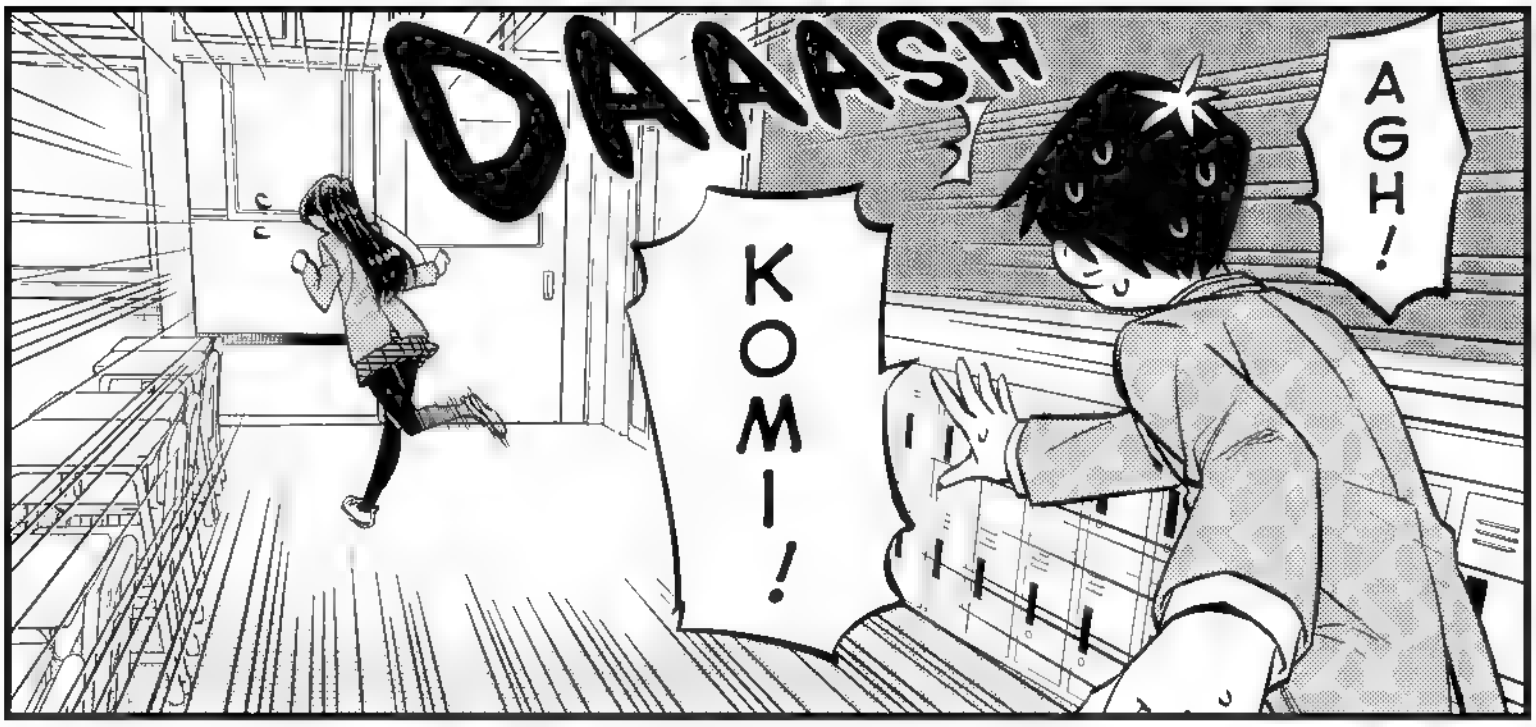
Then I'll be your first friend and help you make 99 more.

BLUSH

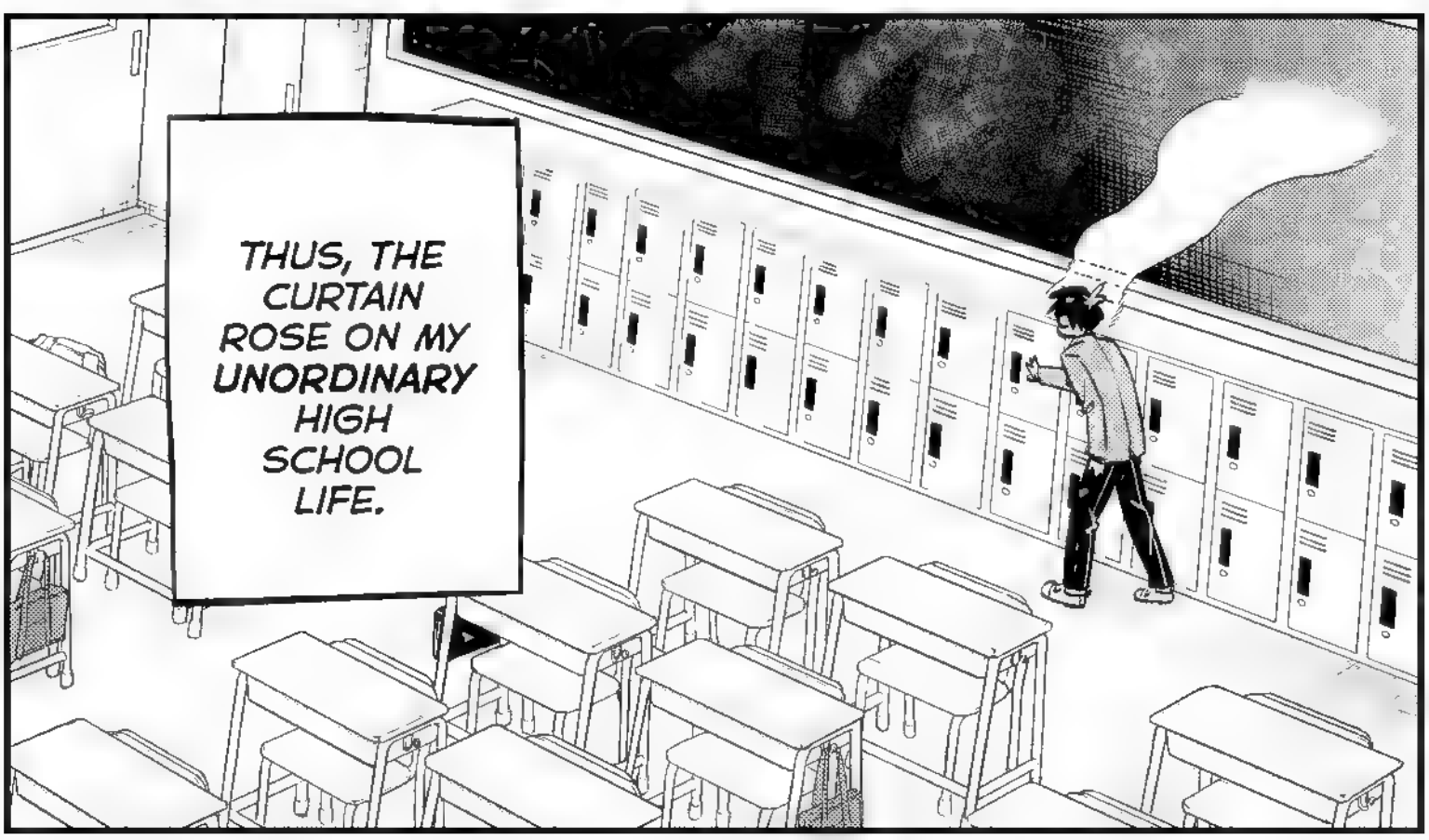
Sounds good.

HUH?

FWIP


DAAASH
KOMI!
AGH!

BLUSH


THUS, THE CURTAIN ROSE ON MY UNORDINARY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE.

...
...TO HELP KOMI GET BETTER AT TALK–
BLUUSH
SO MY GOAL IS...
OH!
... COMMU-NICATE.
IT'S LIKE SHE CAN'T ...
... SOUNDS AWFULLY BAD.
DIFFICULTY TALKING TO PEOPLE AND SOCIALIZING ...
...AND HELP HER MAKE 99 MORE FRIENDS!
Komi can't communicate.
...TO CURE HER COMMU-NICATION DISORDER ...

Communication 6 — The End

Which means you need ***personality!***

Itan Private High School is an elite prep school, but the entrance exam is ***an interview!*** (Paper tests are just conducted for appearance's sake.)

Tadano hasn't realized!!

...has a very high concentration of quirky individuals!!

ECCENTRICS!

OUTSIDERS!

WEIRDOS!

FREAKS!

So this school ...

...KOMI!

OH...

...GOOD MORNING ...

And Tadano hasn't realized ...

...how difficult it will be for Komi to make friends here.

...

...mff.

TREMMMMM

MMMMMBLE

Goo... Goo... Googoo googoo good momo momo morrr...

Komi Can't

Communication 7: One More Time

I KNOW.

Tadano has average communication skills.

...

HER SKIN IS PORCELAIN.

HER HAIR IS SILKY.

HER LARGE EYES ARE ALMOND SHAPED.

AND SHE SMELLS GOOD.

SHE'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PERSON I'VE EVER SEEN.

KOMI IS **BEAUTIFUL.**

K-KOMI!

SHINE

BASICALLY, SHE GLOWS.

HOW-EVER ...

"LET'S BE FRIENDS."

TRY SAYING ...

F-FIRST, LET'S PRACTICE SPEAKING!

IF YOU CAN SAY THAT, THEN YOU'LL MAKE 100 FRIENDS IN NO TIME!

PWIK

!

...TURNED TO STONE.

AND THEN KOMI...

KOMI?!

WAS THAT SENTENCE TOO DIFFICULT?

KOMI-?!

KOMI-!

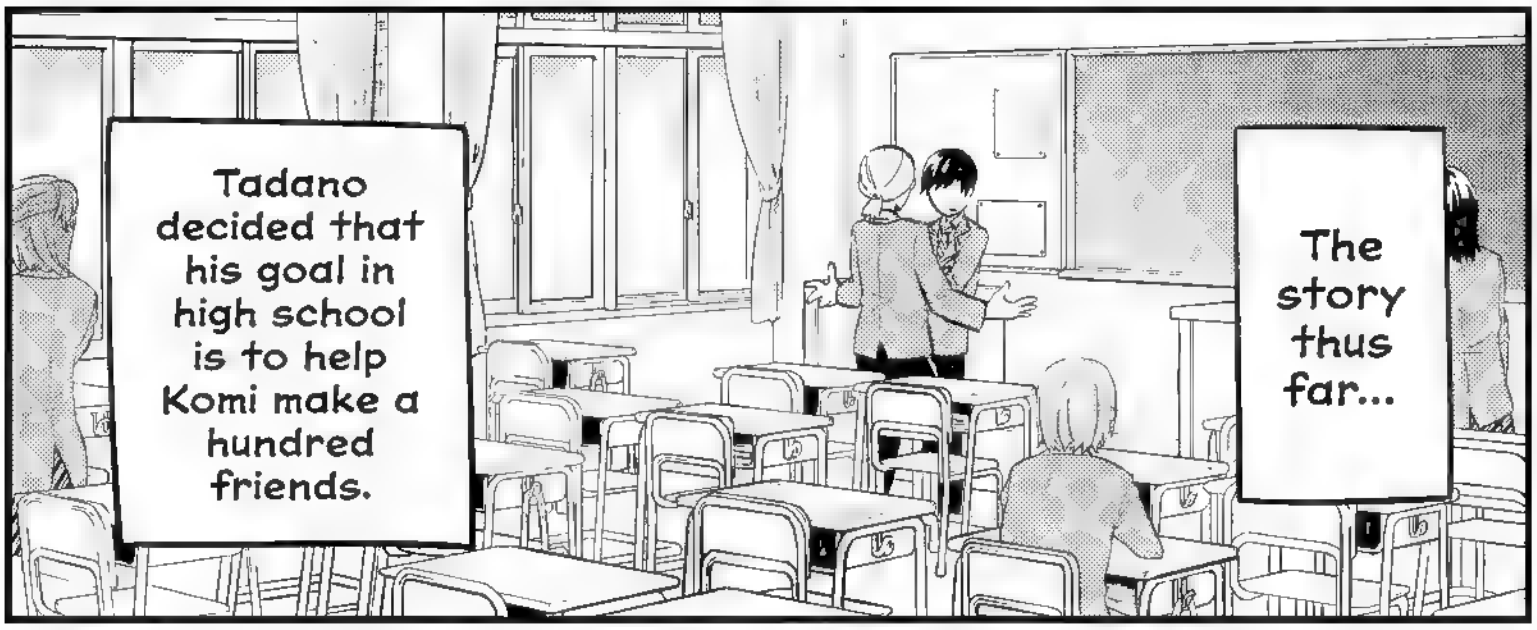
Hey!

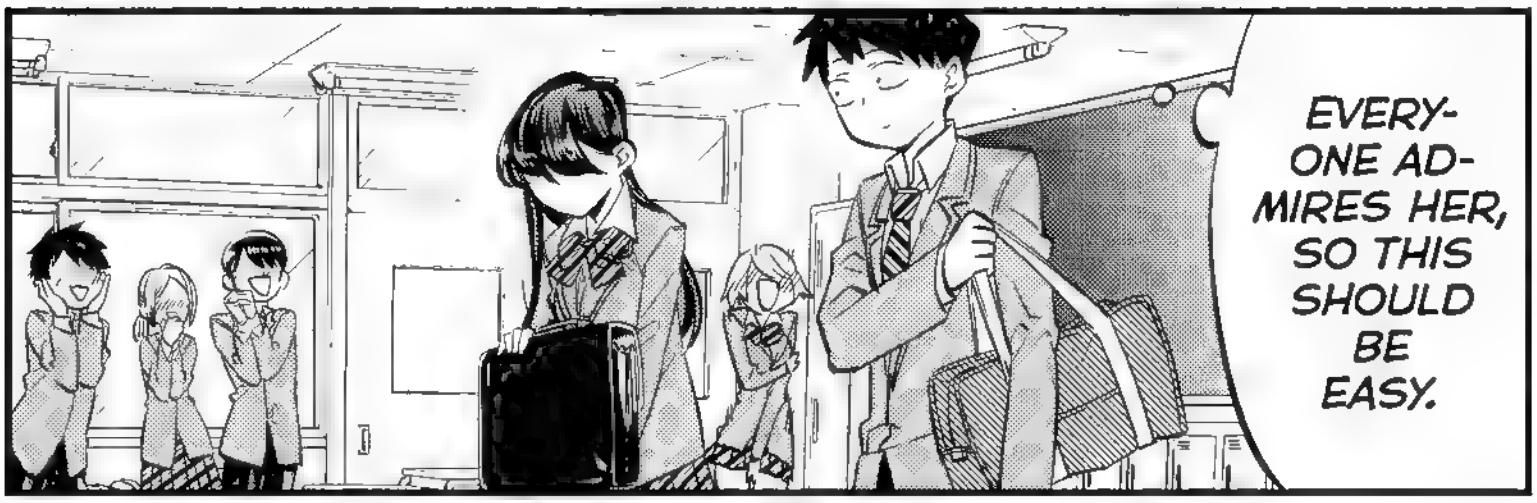
I KNOW KOMI CAN'T COMMUNICATE.

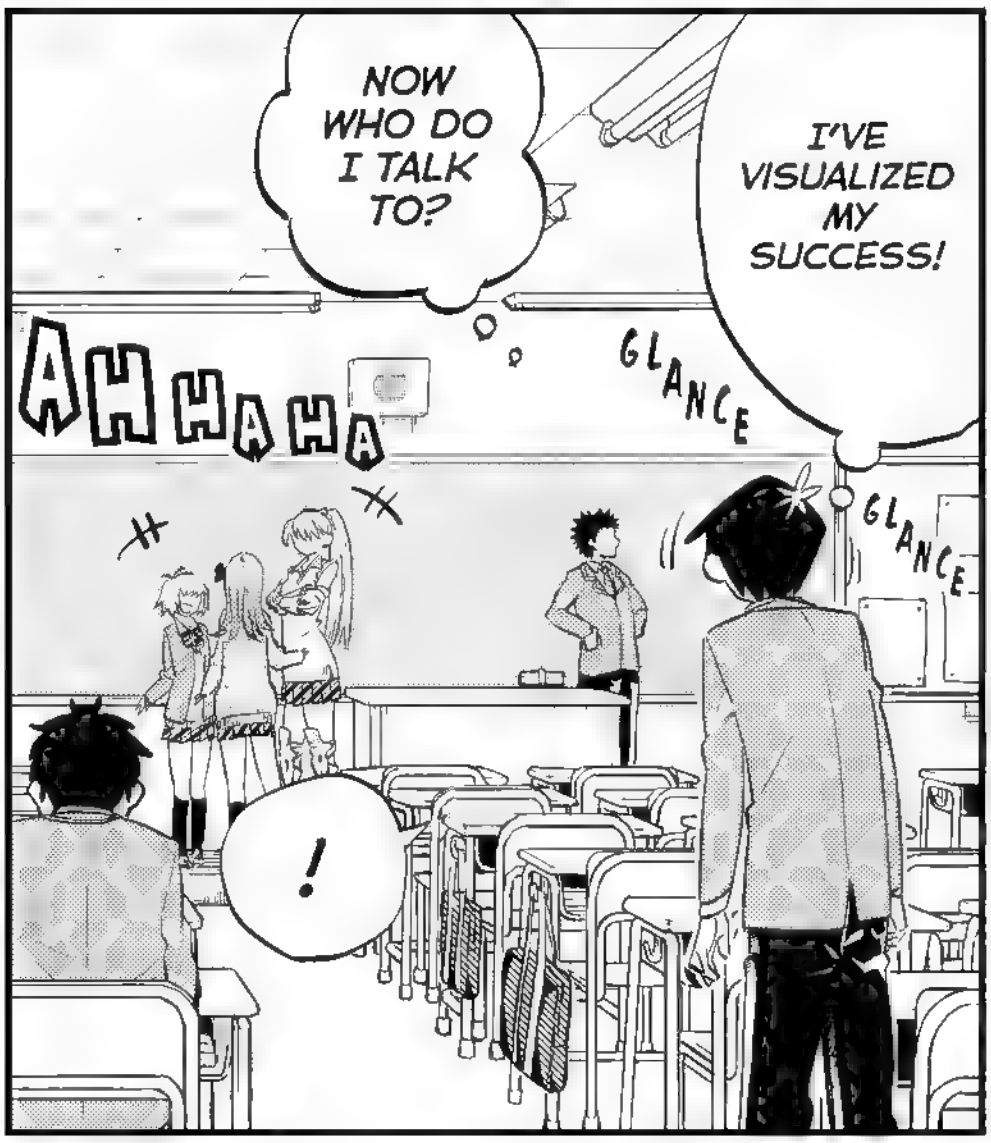
I KNOW.

Communication 7 — The End

Communication 8: Scary







JOLT

Uh... YAMAI?

UM...

BABMP BABMP

HERE GOES!

AH HA HA HEE HEE TEE HEE

HM?

YES, TADANO?

Yamai is the leader of the cool girls.

SMILE

PHEW...

UM, KOMI WANTS ...

...?

GRAB

SMILE SMILE

...TO HAVE–

...scumbag
scumbag scumbag
scumbag scumbag
scumbag

Communication 9: Old Friends

...Tadano spoke to a few other people but received similar responses.

During lunch...

MNCH MNCH

Wants to cry

...DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

I...

I ACTED SUPERIOR, AS IF I COULD HELP YOU, BUT...

Eating

I PROMISED TO HELP KOMI MAKE FRIENDS, BUT HOW CAN I DO THAT WHEN I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS MYSELF?!

GAH

BONK

I'M TOTALLY USE-LESS!

SIGH

I DIDN'T WANT TO RESORT TO THIS, BUT...

KLATTA

...THERE'S STILL SOME-THING I CAN DO!

PANG PANG

BUT...

...SHOULD BE ABLE TO BECOME FRIENDS!

THEY...

YOU REALLY FLUBBED YOUR INTRO-DUCTION YESTERDAY.

OH...

HM?

...NA?

OSA...

HOW CAN YOUR OLD FRIEND NAJIMI OSANA HELP YOU...

ANYWAY, WHADDAYA NEED?

Najimi Osana is sociable.

...TADA-NO?

YOU FOL-LOWED ME?!

HUH?

OH... HI, KOMI.

YAAAA AAY

SHE AND I WERE CLASSMATES IN JUNIOR HIGH.

THIS IS NAJIMI OSANA.

OSANA, WHY ARE YOU WEARING A SKIRT?

SWEAT SWEAT

HM? UM...

WAIT, *SHE?*

YOUR *CLOTHES* AREN'T THE POINT!

DID YOU THINK IT WAS A KILT?

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I'M A GIRL, SO OF COURSE I'M WEARING A SKIRT!

HUH?

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, I DON'T THINK SO.

SNIF SNIF SNUF

HUH? YOU MUST'VE MISUNDER-STOOD! YOU'RE SO CLUELESS SOMETIMES! AH HA HA!

IN JUNIOR HIGH, YOU WERE A BOY, WEREN'T YOU?! IN A BOY'S UNIFORM?!

...don't ya think?

I look good in a skirt...

Patho-logically dishonest!

Gender unknown!

Simply doesn't make sense!

BUT WHAT'S MOST SURPRISING IS NAJIMI'S...

NAJIMI OSANA IS ALWAYS LIKE THIS!

I LOVE HOW THE LEADER WAS SO EASY-GOING!

YOU MEAN *TETSUWAN WALKING*?

NAJIMI! WASN'T THAT THING ON TV COOL LAST NIGHT?

SORRY, I'M BUSY! HOW ABOUT TOMOR-ROW?

NAJIMI! WANNA CHECK OUT A CLUB WITH ME?

OKAY!

N-NAJIMI! DON'T SAY THE TITLE OUT LOUD!

SQUIRM

FIDGET

OH! DID YOU LIKE IT?

WHEEZ

HUFF

HUFF

N-NAJIMI, HERE'S THE NOVEL I BOR-ROWED.

...MEGA-COMMU-NICATION POWER!

CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER CHATTER

The perfume you suggested was...

Uh-huh...

Najimi! My boyfriend...

Did you like it?

Oh, that?

That magazine you mentioned...

...

Surprised

..

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT!

YEP! THEY'RE OLD FRIENDS!

HM?

CHATTER CHATTER

OSANA, ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE ...

I GO WAY BACK WITH EVERY STUDENT IN SCHOOL!

...

Very sur-prised

--

WHAT'S REMARKABLE IS HER (HIS?) COMMUNICATION ABILITIES. OSANA MAKES FRIENDS IN MERE MINUTES, AND THOSE FRIENDSHIPS NEVER FADE.

IT'S LIKE A SUPER-POWER!

SUP-POSEDLY, IT'S BECAUSE OSANA CHANGED SCHOOLS A LOT...

Old friends

IT WAS THAT WAY IN JUNIOR HIGH TOO. MOST OF THE STUDENTS ARE OSANA'S OLD FRIENDS.

...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT'S SO REMARKABLE.

...I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.

OSANA ...

SO IT'LL BE EASY TO GET OSANA TO BE KOMI'S FRIEND.

UM... THAT WAS A *JOKE!*

Shall I Sate your lust with my body?

SHH! NOT IN FRONT OF KOMI!

HUFF HUFF

Sure!

Anything for my intimate friend!

AHEM

...

...?

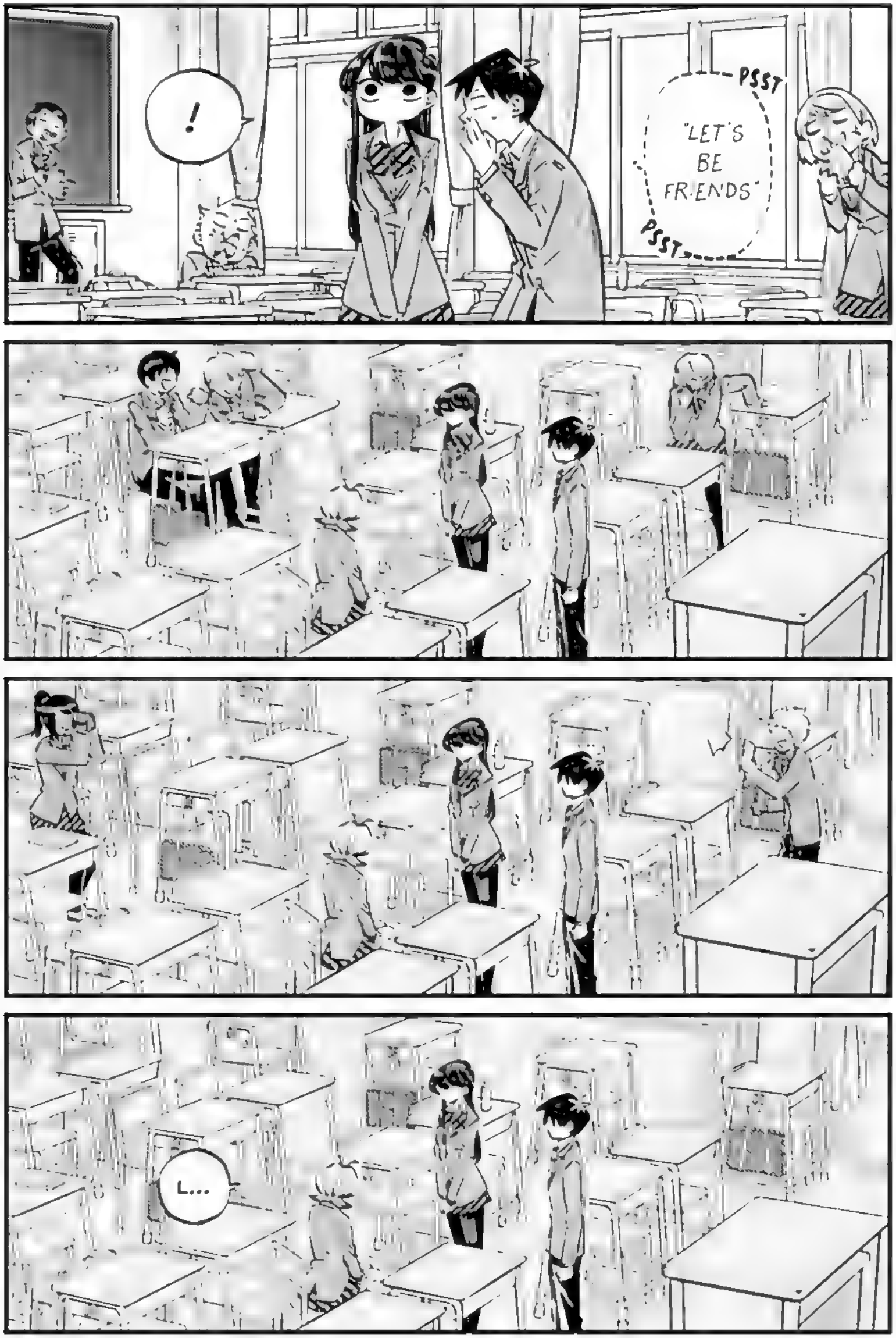
UH-OH. SHE DOESN'T UNDER-STAND.

SO IF IT'S ALL RIGHT... Um...

OSANA'S WEIRD BUT GOOD AT HEART.

!

TRY WHAT WE PRACTICED THIS MORNING.

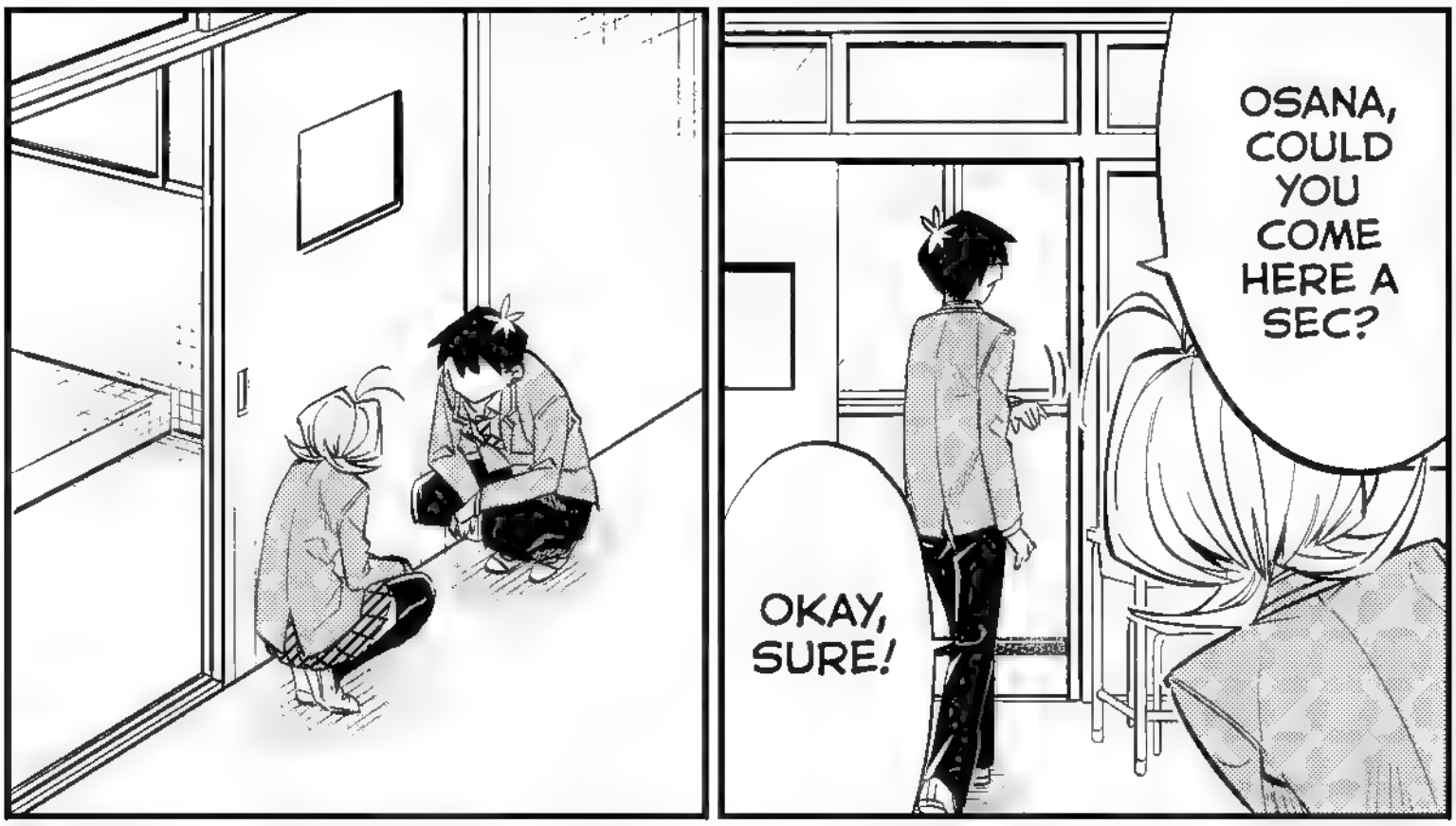

!
PSST
"LET'S BE FRIENDS"
PSST
L...

BEE
Used to this by now
HEY, THAT'S BETTER THAN THIS MORNING!
WHAT THE HECK?! SER-IOUSLY! WHAT THE HECK?!
L-
let's
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee-
bee...
ARE YOU SURE ?!
REALLY ?!
SHE'S TRYING TO SAY, "LET'S BE FRIENDS." (I THINK.)

Communication 9 — The End

Komi Can't
Communicate

Communication 10:
Dark Past
Frozen in shock
KOMI?
KOMI?


OSANA, COULD YOU COME HERE A SEC?
OKAY, SURE!

FRZZ
MAYBE NOT THE *BEST*, BUT...
*The best in the land
WHY DID YOU SAY NO?! YOU'VE GOT THE BEST COMMU-NICATION SKILLS!!*

IS THAT EVEN POSSIBLE ?!
WHAT DO *YOU* THINK KOMI IS LIKE?
...I DON'T LIKE HER.
?!
SORRY, BUT...

I GO WAY BACK WITH ALL THE STUDENTS HERE...

...SO I'VE MET KOMI BEFORE.

IN SECOND GRADE.

!

AND, UMM ...

...SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE I COULDN'T BE FRIENDS WITH.

—?

—?!

SHE IGNORED EVERY-THING I SAID.

THE SHOCK PUT ME IN BED FOR A WEEK!

Ungh...

Heh heh...

KOMI WAS LIKE THAT EVEN IN GRADE SCHOOL?!

I'M AN ADULT, SO I WON'T SAY I *HATE* HER, BUT...

...WHEN OUR EYES MEET ...

...I TREM-BLE.

TREMBLE

OH...

1-1

HERE'S AN IDEA! WALK HOME WITH HER TODAY!

WOW! YOU'RE ACT-UALLY GETTING PUSHY!

KOMI WASN'T *IGNORING* YOU.

TALK TO HER. YOU'LL SEE.

OSANA, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.

...SO SHE MUST HAVE LOTS OF-

ANYWAY, SHE'S POPU-LAR...

BUT I ALREADY TRIED, AND IT DIDN'T WORK.

TALK TO HER. YOU'LL UN-DERSTAND.

HUH?

SHUMP

YOU'RE REALLY ROOTING FOR HER, HUH?

ARE YOU *HOT* FOR HER?

Or too heavy?

IS THAT WEIRD?

HM?

NOT REALLY.

I'm too normal.

NO, WE'RE TOTALLY INCOM-PATIBLE. BUT SHE'S IN TROUBLE ...

... SO I WANT TO HELP.

WHERE ?!

I'm getting moist.

ACTU-ALLY, IT'S KINDA COOL. ///

POINK POINK

WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

STOP CALL-ING ME OSANA.

CALL ME NAJIMI LIKE YOU USED TO.

Still frozen

FINE!

I'LL WALK HOME WITH KOMI!

REALLY?

BUT ON ONE CONDI-TION!

STOP! DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT!

...BY WRITING IT ON THE SCHOOL TRACK!

THIS REMINDS ME OF THE TIME WE TOLD THAT ONE GIRL THAT YOU LIKED HER...

THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO ASK OSANA!

BLAH

I LOVE THE WAY YOU HANDLE REJEC-TION...

BLAH

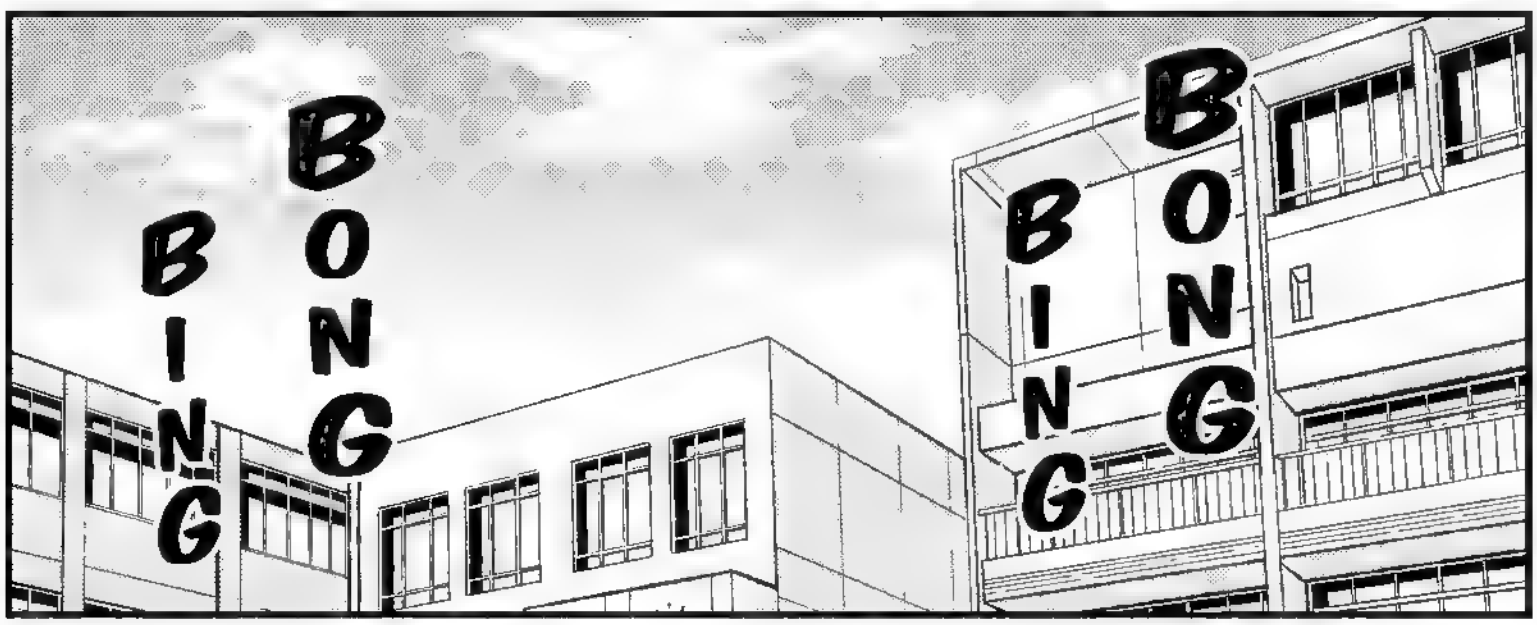
I could die...

Najimi Osana knows his dark past.

Communication 10 — The End

Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 11: Not a Killer



WELL ...

...SHALL WE HEAD HOME, KOMI?

RUSTLE

...

AWK WARD

UH ...

...

THEY LOOK SUPER UNCOMFORT-ABLE!

Followed them because he was worried

TH...

From Najimi's Perspective

From Tadano's Perspective

Looking away because she's nervous

I DIDN'T MEAN IT.

SORRY I SAID WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS.

Tried to say "yes" but only the last syllable came out

GACK

SSS!

HEY! DO YOU REMEMBER MEETING ME BEFORE?

Strongly wanting to deny it

ANYWAY, YOU SURE ARE POPULAR NOW!

WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?

Najimi

R U OK?!

NAJIMI

I give up!

PING

EVEN NAJIMI IS HAVING TROUBLE!

?!

DASHDASHDASHDASHDASHDASH

NAJI-MIIIII!!

LOOM

HEH HEH! FOUND YOU, NAJIMI!

MORE OLD FRIENDS?

Even those guys?!

GACK

MAA WUZ LONELY, NA-JIMI!

FIDGET SQUIRM

YOU MOVED AWAY WITHOUT SAYIN' NUTTIN' TO US!

HM? MAA! AND SHII! WHAT'S UP?

...HOW IMPORTANT YOU WAS TO ME, AND, UH...

AFTER YOU LEFT, I NOTICED ...

YOU CAN DO IT, MAA!!

SO WHATCHA NEED?

OH... RIGHT!

THAT WAS FAST!

But is he really?

BL

I CAN'T. I'M A BOY.

NAJIMI! BE MY GAL!

GRRR

NAJIMI! I MADE A DECISION!

MAA!!

FWUP

HE'S SO GIRLY!

T

MAAA!

I GOTTA TREASURE THESE FEELINGS IN MY BREAST !!

GRAB

MWA HA HA HEH HA HEH HA... HEH HEH...

Should I go help?

CLONK

NAJIMI...

...I AIN'T LETTIN' YOU GET ...

YANK

HEH HEH ...

OW!

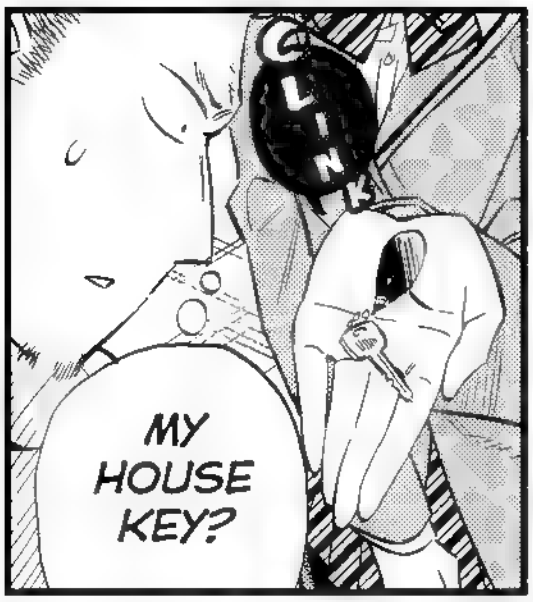
HEY... LET ME GO!

...AWAY?

SHF

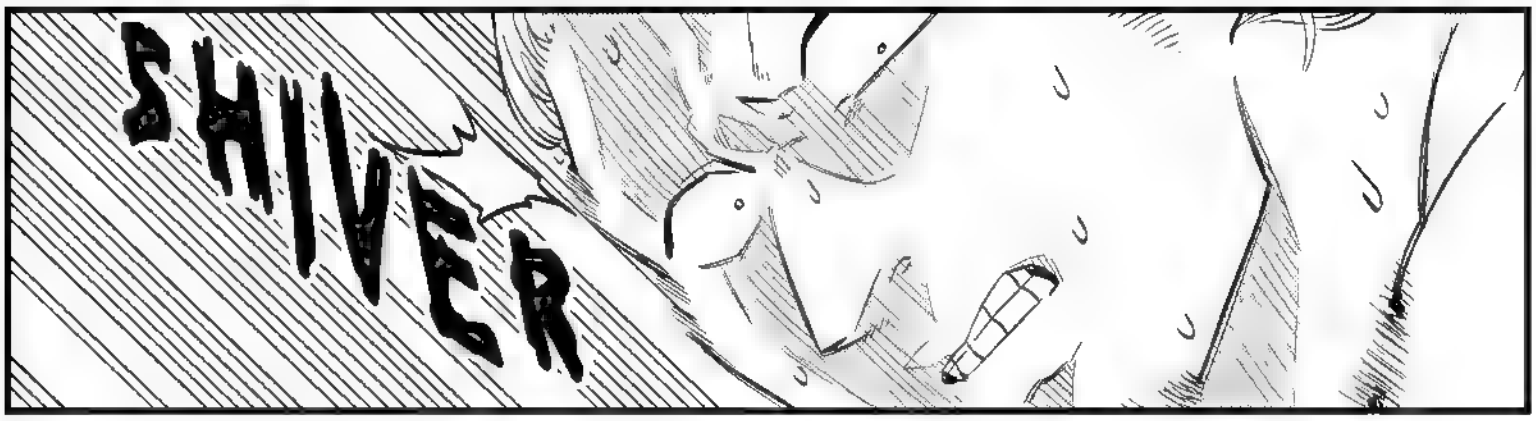
GWoo

WHAT'S THIS OMI-NOUS FEELIN' ?!


CLINK
MY HOUSE KEY?

WHO IS YOU?
SHE'S PURTY!
OH, IT'S JUST A GIRL!

SHE'S MAKING PROG-RESS !!
SHE'S TALKING TO A STRANGER!
YOU ...
... OCKET ...
... KEY ...


SHIVER

M-MAYBE SHE SAID...
HUNH?! WHAT'S SHE SAYIN' ?!
W-WAS THAT SOME KIND OF THREAT ?!

THAT MUST BE IT!!

...TO RIP YOUR ARMS FROM THEIR SOCK-ETS!!

*His imagination

...OR I'LL USE THIS KEY ...

YOU LEAVE NAJIMI ALONE ...

FLINCH

STAARE

ULP

GASP

HUFF

STARE

Your key fell out of your pocket.

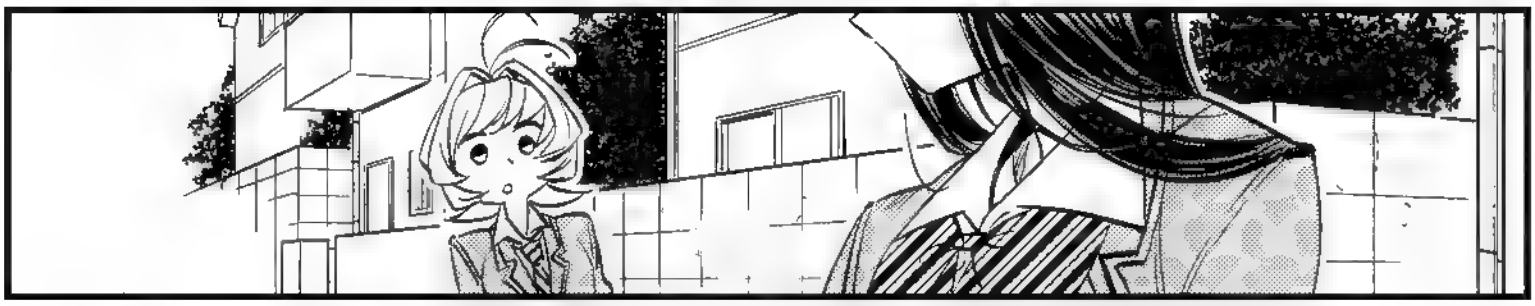
That's what she was saying.

...

HUH?! MAA?!

LET'S SCRAM, SHII!!

?
?
DASH



FWISH

GLOOM

I THINK THEY JUST MISUNDER-STOOD!

IT... IT'S ALL RIGHT, KOMI!

I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND, KOMI.

I...

?!

BWA!

OHCH

OHCH

AH HA HA!

AH HA!

AH HA HA

I HAD THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT YOU!

AH HA HA! YOU'RE *FUNNY*, KOMI!

HUH?

...A *BLOOD-SUCKER* OR SOME-THING!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE...

AHHAHA

AH HA HA! WELL, LET'S GO HOME!

...YOUR SECOND FRIEND!

YOU JUST GOT...

...

...

GAH

?!

PYO-ING

Happy

They turned it in to the police.

...

Key

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THAT?

Communication 11 — The End

"SHE WAS STUN-NINGLY BEAUTI-FUL."
MODERN LITERATURE
"HER LIMBS WERE THIN AND FRAIL, BUT NOT AS IF FROM POVERTY."
"AFTER THE OLD WOMAN LEFT THE ROOM..."
...AND TINGED WITH RED."
"IN THE ROOM'S LIGHT, HER MILKY SKIN WAS AGLOW ...
!
THAT'S ENOUGH. NEXT IS...
... KOMI.
"...SHE SPOKE WITH A SLIGHT ACCENT."

...

...

...

She was just too nervous to speak.

TRMBLL TRMBLL

READ IN SILENCE!

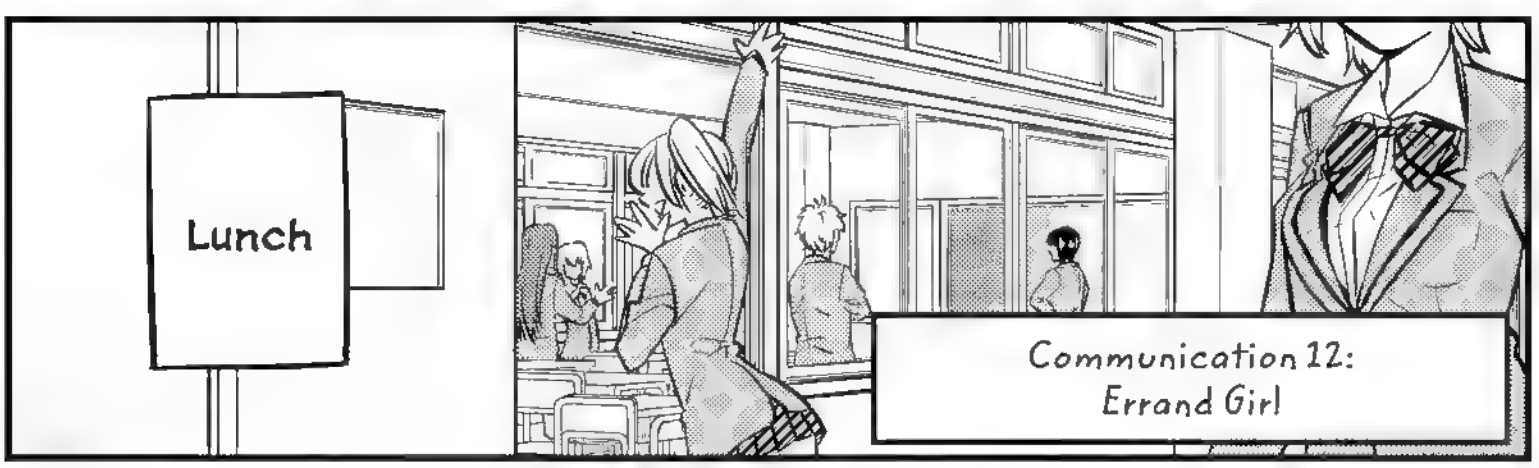
FINE!

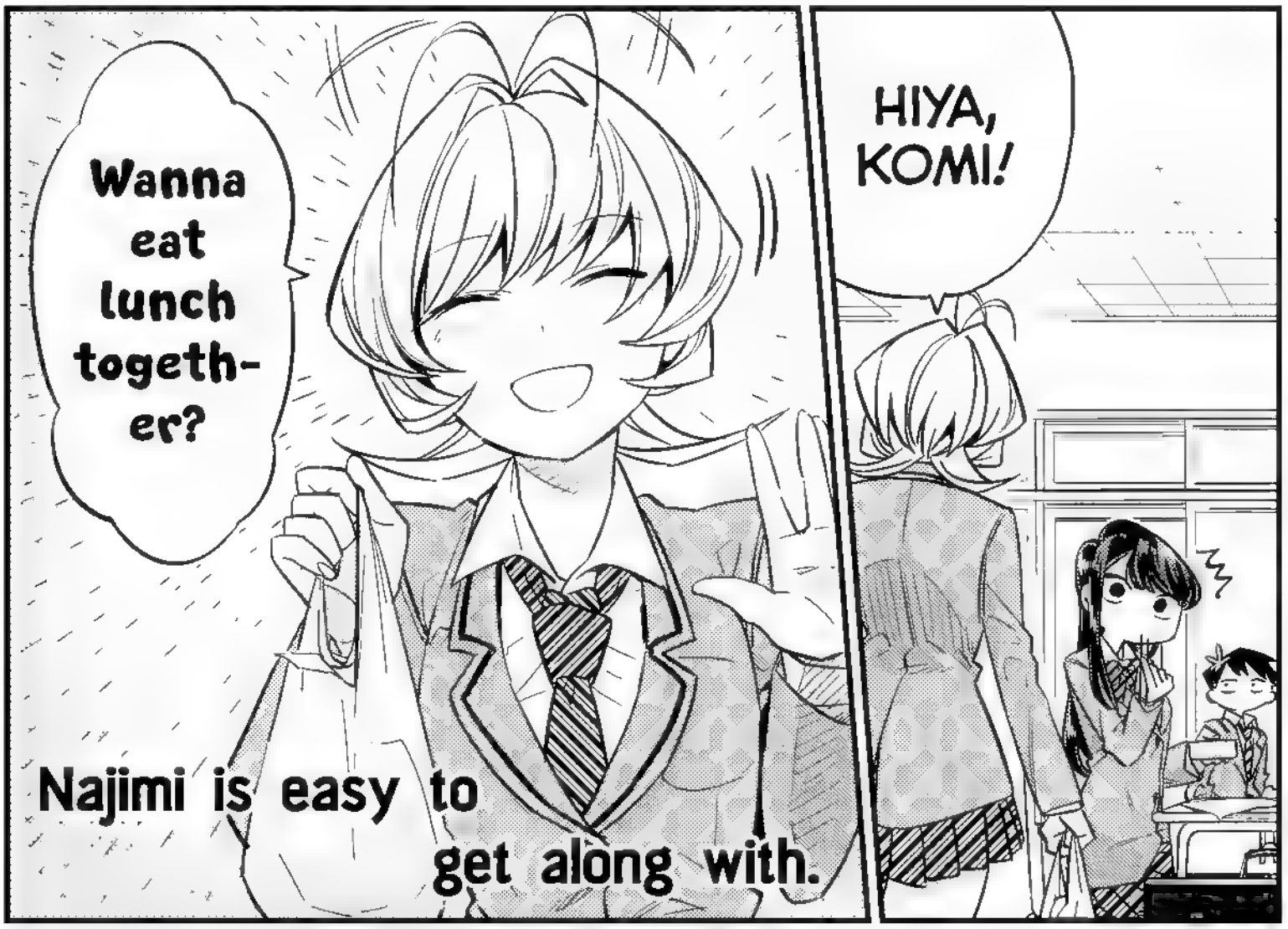
I HEAR YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, KOMI!

OKAY, YEAH, I KNOW! THERE'S NO POINT IN READING OUT LOUD!

MODERN LITERATURE
Communicate

INSTANT REPLAY
Komi drove away vicious delinquents ...
...and became friends with Najimi Osana.
NAJIMI!!!!
The story thus far


Lunch
Communication 12:
Errand Girl


Wanna eat lunch togeth-er?
HIYA, KOMI!
Najimi is easy to get along with.

PLOK
YOU'RE STILL NOT OVER IT, HUH?
Trembling because her eyes met Komi's
TREMBLE
Emotional because no one has ever asked her this before

GACK
ARE YOU EATING ALONE?
OH! WHY, IF IT ISN'T TADA-NO!
URGH
But what about you?
THAT'S WHY I EAT WITH MY FRIENDS!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT FOOD TASTES BETTER WHEN YOU EAT IT WITH OTHER PEOPLE?
Sorta happy
HUH?
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN. WELL... WANNA JOIN US?
...I'M GOOD.
N...
NO...
WE'LL KILL YOU!
HUH? WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, TADANO? YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO EAT WITH HER HIGHNESS KOMI! HER LUNCHTIME IS INVIOLABLE! A NORMAL NOBODY LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T EVEN BE WITHIN HER FIELD OF VISION! GRUMBLE GRUMBLE...
Classmates

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
WHAT MUSIC DO YOU LIKE? I LIKE...
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
PSHH
AH
Over-heating from too much chit-chat
SHAKE
SHAKE
BLAH
DO YOU WANT MORE FRIENDS?
...WHY DID YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS?
KOMI ...
WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE FUTURE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TADANO?
THAT LOOKS TASTY! DID YOU MAKE IT YOURSELF?
WHAT SHAMPOO DO YOU USE?
A HUNDRED ?
To the rescue
KOMI WANTS TO MAKE A HUNDRED FRIENDS.
I SHOULD NEVER HAVE TOLD NAJIMI!
Just a hundred?
HUH?
WHY SO FEW?!
Estimated number of friends: 5,000,000

NAJIMI'S PLOTTING SOME-THING...

MUNCH MUNCH

OHHH, REALLY?

...KIND OF THIRSTY.

I'M FEEL-ING...

UM...

...KO-MI?

With gobs of whip cream!

?!

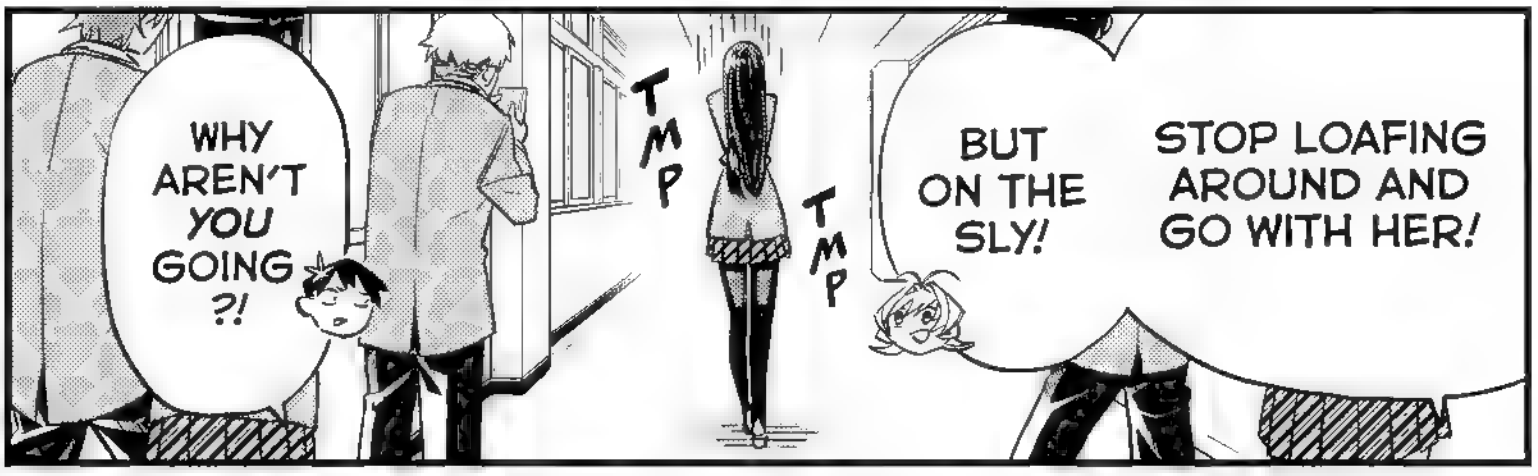
Go to Standbakes and buy me a medium nonfat milk pistachio deep mocha dip cream Frappuccino with chocolate sauce!

??!!
And if you don't, I won't be your friend any-more!

DON'T WORRY, IT ISN'T FAR.
School
NAJIMI, WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!
APPROX. 250 M
Stand-bakes
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE!
STAGGER
KOMI ?!
You're gonna do it?!

Okay, Komi? I want a medium nonfat milk tachio deep ocha dip cream Frappuc- cino with choco- late sauce!
DON'T REPEAT IT!
IT HURTS ME FAR MORE THAN IT HURTS HER.
THIS IS FOR KOMI'S OWN GOOD.
YOU DON'T UNDER- STAND, TADA- NO.

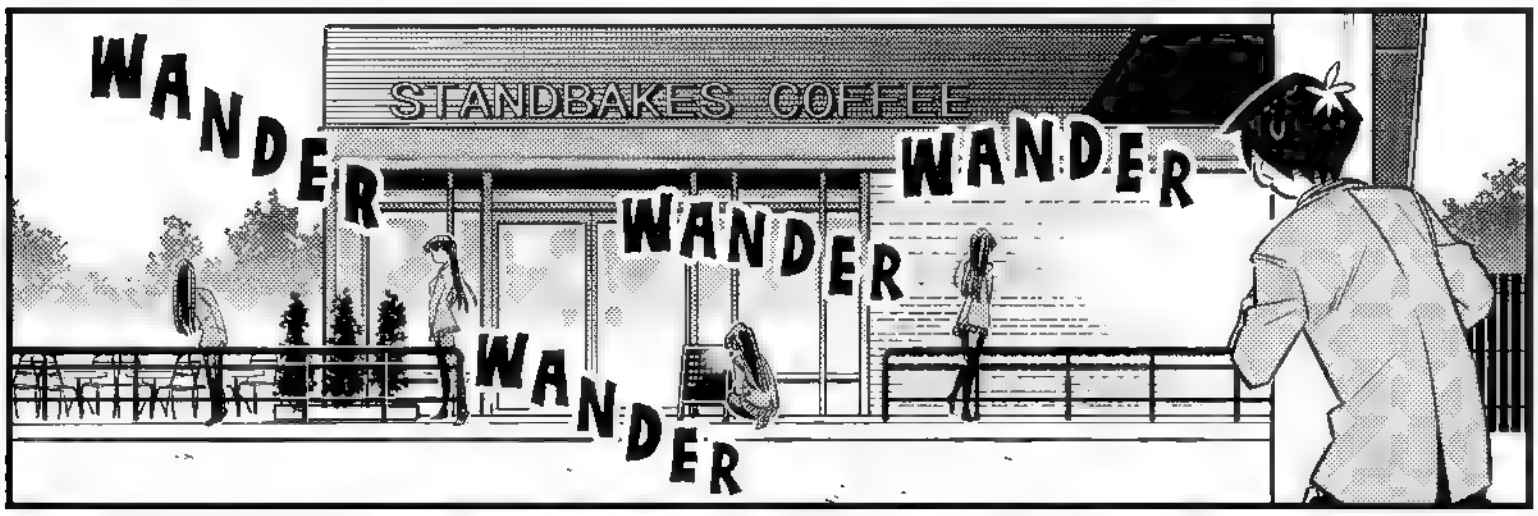
BUT YOU'RE SMILING!
IT'S NOT LIKE I *WANT* THAT DRINK!
IT'LL BE PRACTICE TALKING TO PEOPLE.


WHY AREN'T *YOU* GOING ?!
TMP
TMP
BUT ON THE SLY!
STOP LOAFING AROUND AND GO WITH HER!

WHAT IS *WITH* YOU ?!
SWIK
Every second counts!
ACTUALLY, I'M DREADFULLY BUSY. I PROMISED TO EAT LUNCH WITH THREE OTHER GROUPS.

Communication 13: First Errand

STANDBAKES COFFEE
clomp
STANDBAKES COFFEE


STANDBAKES COFFEE
WANDER
WANDER
WANDER
WANDER

YOU CAN DO IT, KOMI!
Tada-no
BABMP
BABMP
BABMP
BABMP
BABMP
BABMP
It takes courage to enter Stand-bakes.

Gathering her courage

STYLISH

SHE CAME BACK OUT?!

Stepping out for a sec

Giving it another try

JUMP

Waiting for a server to come

I'LL TAKE YOUR ORDER UP HERE!

WEL-COME! WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

FIDGET FIDGET

Medium nonfat milk pistachio deep mocha dip cream Frappuccino...

...with choco-late sauce!

And gobs of whip cream!

...

SWUP

UM... THIS IS THE MENU.

SWUP

...

Seasonal Menu
Roast Peanut
Latte (Hot/Cold)
470 430 510 550
Espresso Beverages
Frappuccino
Deep Mocha Dip
Candy Frappuccino
450 490 530
Custard Cream Frappuccino
390 (約130ml)
Standbakes Latte
380 360 420 460
Whip Latte
430 390 470 510
Parfait Mocha
Parallel Macchiato
Café Italiano
360 320 400 440
Brown Mocha
440 400 480 520
Green Tea Latte
440 400
410 370 450 490
350
340
Cappuccino
380 340 420 460
320 360
Personalize Your Drink
+¥0
+¥50
¥350

You have to combine stuff from here and here.

Look closely, Komi!!

Almost in tears

IT'S NOT ON THE MENU!

HOW WILL SHE HANDLE THIS?!

M-MISS?

...

Came inside

I AM A COFFEE MASTER! AND A DARK APRON BARISTA! THUS...

...I BEAR A TITLE ONLY GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES WHO PASS AN ANNUAL COMPANY EXAM AND I WEAR A SPECIAL BLACK APRON BESTOWED UPON ONLY ONE IN 12 SELECT STANDBAKES PROFESSIONALS!

GASP!

...I'VE GOT IT!

GASP! I'VE GOT IT! AS A STAND-BAKES VETERAN OF 15 YEARS ...

?!

COMIN' RIGHT UP!!

I KNOW WHAT THIS LOVELY LADY WANTS!!

...

MY GODLIKE CUSTOMER SERVICE WILL GO VIRAL! TEN THOUSAND SHARES ON TWEETER!

PLEASE WAIT DOWN THERE!

BAM

WHEW! I SO ROCK!

Wrong

NOIR FANTASTIQUE VALENCIA ORANGE BITTER CHOCOLATE BROWNIE WITH NUTTY FLAVOR PISTACHIO SAUCE ON WALNUT CHIP CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE CHIP SOY MILK CREAMY FRAPPUCCINO WITH GOBS OF SAUCE AND GOBS OF WHIP CREAM AND GOBS OF CHIPS! ***JUST LIKE YOU ORDERED!***

Oh! Let me bag that.

Wants to say it's wrong

Knows it's wrong

SHE TOOK IT?!

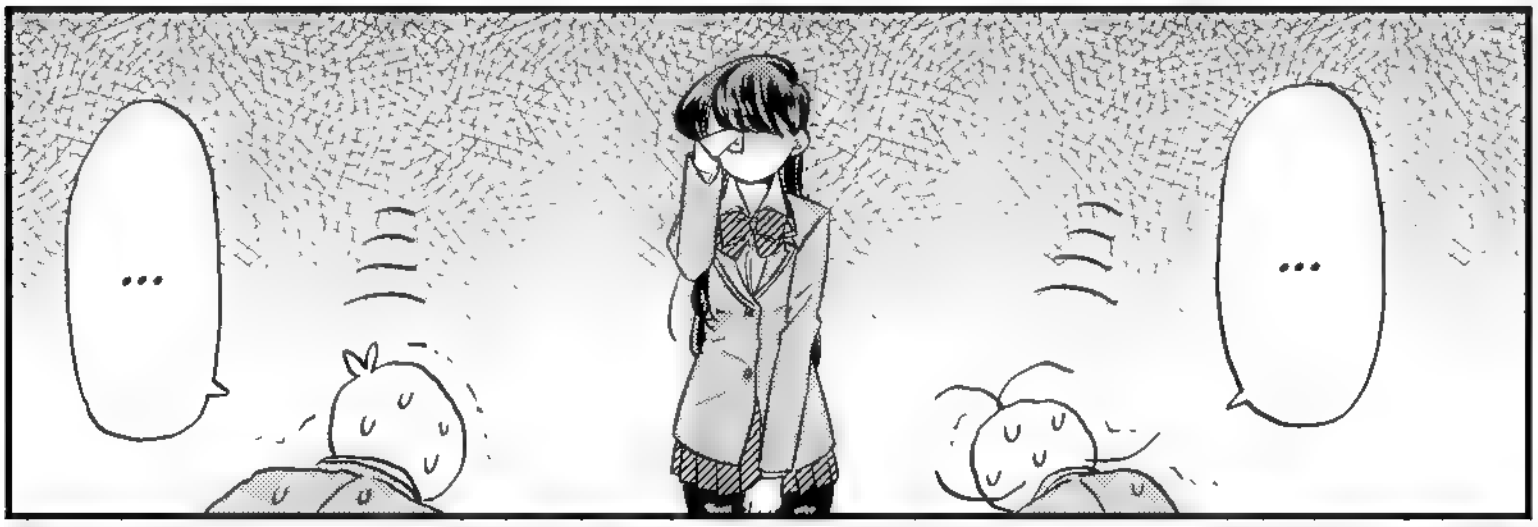
Thank you for your business!

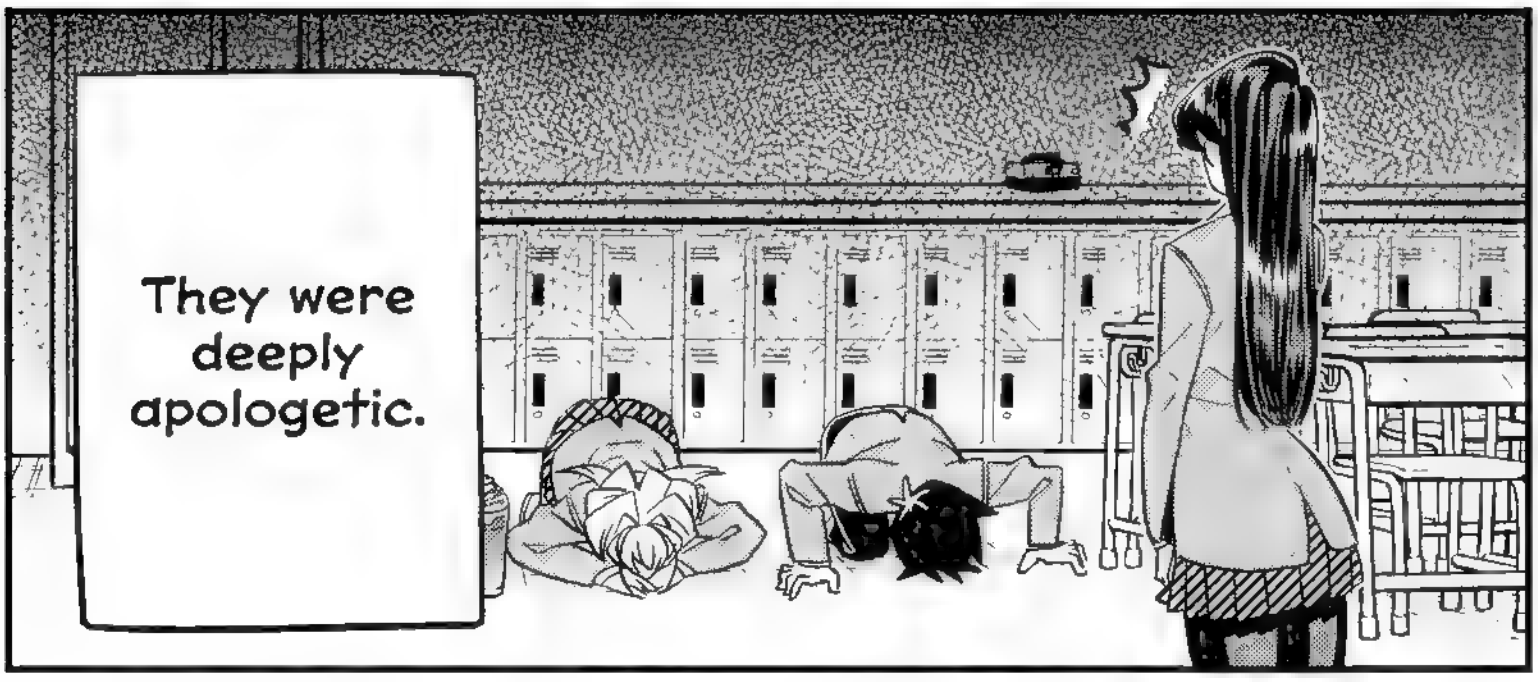
But can't say it

1-1
SWUP
YA-HOO!
THANKS, KOMI! I CAN'T WAIT TO DRINK...
!!!
WELCOME BACK, KOMI!
TMP
NO INJU-RIES?

...THIS?
It's huge!
WHAT IS THIS?
THIS ISN'T WHAT I-

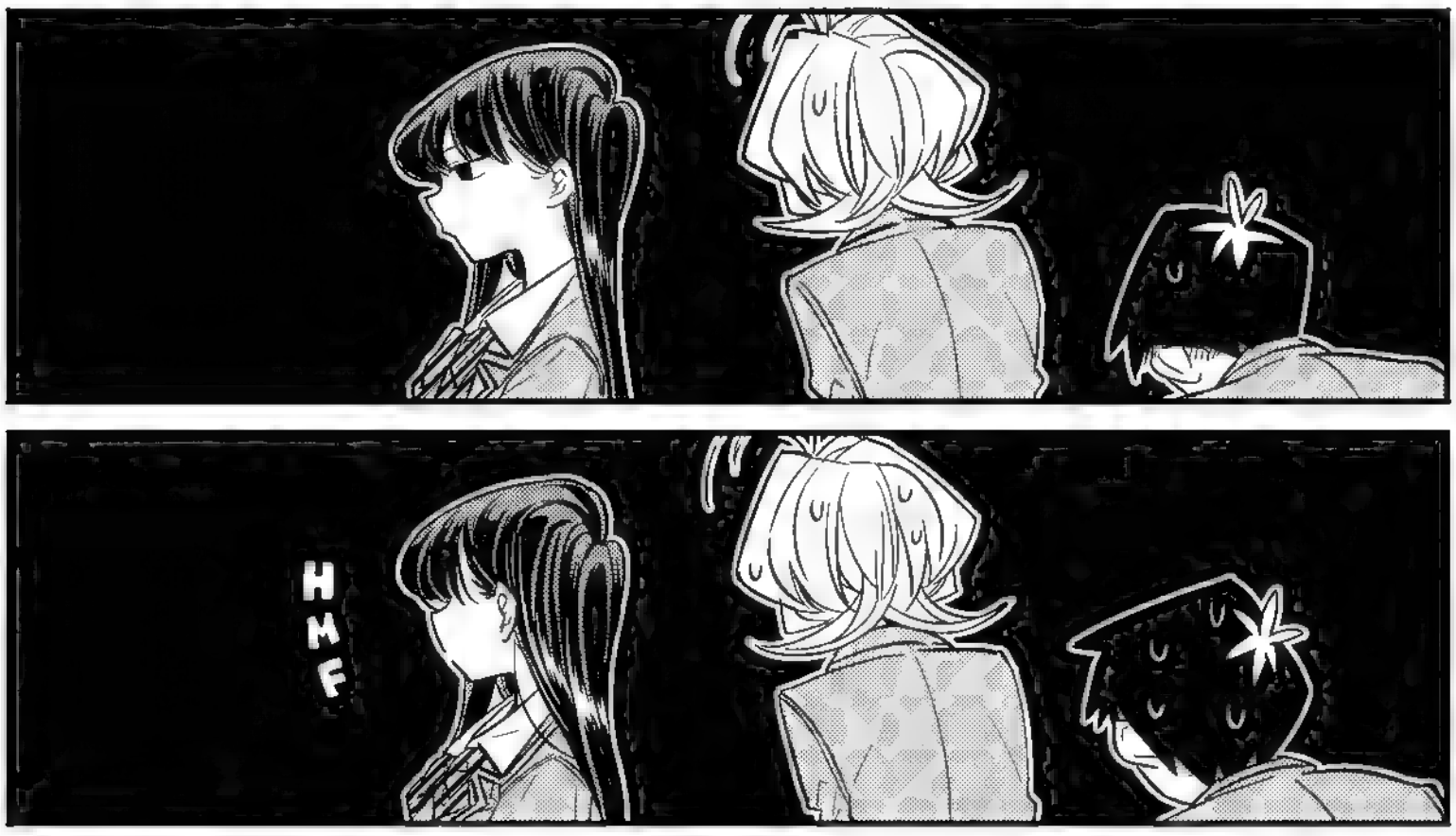
っ!
?!

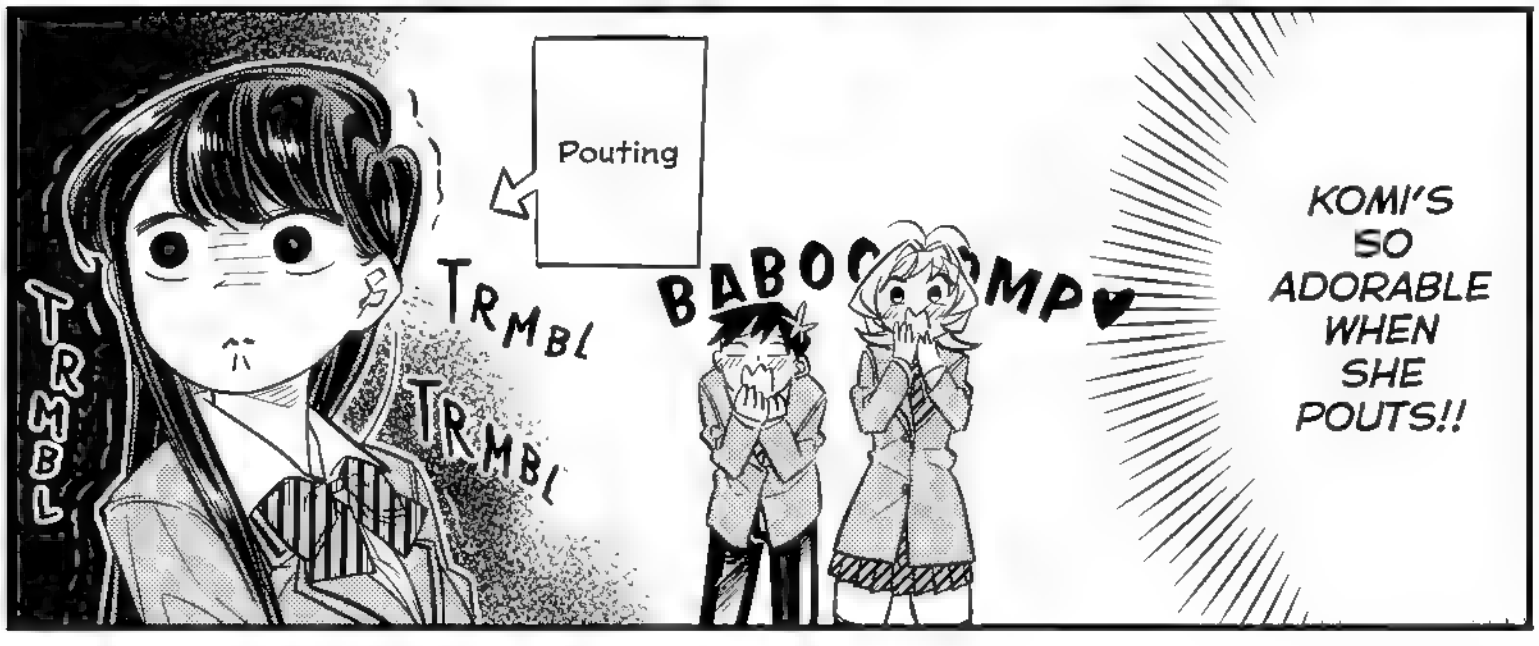




Communication 13 — The End

Bonus





Bonus — The End

STARE STARE STARE STARE STARE STARE STIFF

I'M SUPER JITTERY ...

Agari gets nervous.

...SO I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WHEN PEOPLE ARE WATCHING.

Ooh! The new volume!

MY NAME IS HIMIKO AGARI.

AND RIGHT NOW...

GW

...IS OBSERVING ME.

...MY CLASS-MATE KOMI...

THUNK TUMBLE CRASH

Komi Can't
Communicate

Communication 14-A: Nervous

...IS PRETTY, SMART AND POPULAR.

KOMI ...

So pretty!

She's just nervous.

Amazing!

...AND SHE HOLDS HERSELF SO PROUDLY.

Wow!

Whoa!

Komiii!

She smells good!

I luv u!

She's just timid.

SHE DOESN'T ABUSE HER STATUS ...

I AM BEAUTY

Komi just can't communicate.

SHE'S SILENT AND CALM AND COOL.

*How Agari sees her

...

GWOOO

SQUIRM

Oh my!

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT HER, THE AWESOMER SHE IS!

...AND I'M A LITTLE CHUBBY, SHORT-LEGGED AND NEAR-SIGHTED.

TADOOM

TADUM

♪ RIZ✦ music for failing to shape up

...AND I'M NOT CUTE...

BUT I'M NER-VOUS ...

Who knows the answer?

I do, but...

...AND I NEVER RAISE MY HAND.

That's enough, Agari.

CLATTER

AH HA HA HA

...AND I TREMBLE WHEN I WRITE ON THE BLACK-BOARD...

I'm Agaffi!

AH HA HA HA

I'M AWFUL AT INTRO-DUCING MYSELF ...

IT'S S-SCARY!

Have I done something wrong?

STAARE

WHY IS KOMI STARING AT ME?

SHUMP

!!

AND IT'S MAKING MY STOMACH HURT!

A

I CAN RELAX IN HERE.

PHEW!

Agari fled to the girls' restroom.

I LOVE THIS PLACE!

NO ONE IS PAYING ATTEN-TION ...

NO ONE CAN SEE ME ...

THIS IS MY PERSONAL SPACE!

...

I WISH I COULD STAY HERE FOREV–

Came to say, "You suddenly crouched down. Are you all right?" (but she can't)

...

HUFF

HUFF

SHE'S HEEERE !!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID, BUT I'M SORRY!!

*Auditory hallucinations

CREAK

CREAK

I'M SORRY! SORRY! SORRY!

Whatcha gonna do?

GOD!

BUDDHA!

KOMI!!

PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU WANT! JUST GO EASY ON ME!!

!!

FWSH

Thought it was rude to wait outside the stall

AAAAA

THE DIVINITIES ANSWERED MY PRAYER!

W-WHAT KIN I DO FER YA?!

EEP!

HUH?

UM ...

AGARI, DO ME A FAVOR.

I GOT NERVOUS AND TALKED LIKE A COUNTRY GAL!!

GAH

N-NOW'S MY CHANCE!

TMP TMP TMP

GASP

...I GET TOO N-N-NERV–

B-B-B...

... BUT I...

HUH?

PLEASE INFORM YOUR CLASS-MATES *IN PERSON.*

P.E. WILL BE IN THE GYM FOR SIXTH PERIOD INSTEAD OF OUTSIDE.

SURE! I'LL DO THAT!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT.

I GOTTA RUN!

GWOOOO

AH HA HA HA

MY STOMACH IS IN PANDEMONIUM!

GLOOM

RESPONSIBLE

OH NO...I AGREED TO DO IT!

FW

See? It's easy!

"P.E. is in the gym sixth period."

Calm down and loudly say...

It will be all right, Himiko Agari.

AAAH!

AHHH

...SO I'LL LOUDLY SAY...

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S WORSE IF I HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF...

So says a certain lonesome TV gourmand!

Speak clearly and don't be timid!

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

PWAH!

MURMUR

CHATTER

MURMUR

CHATTER

WHY DID I MAKE THAT SOUND ?!

HICCUP

WHAT?! WHAT'S "PWAH" ?!

THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING!!

What? Is she okay? Agari... Huh? What the?

MURMUR MURMUR

EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT ME!

Woo

NOW I REALLY WANNA DISAPPEAR!

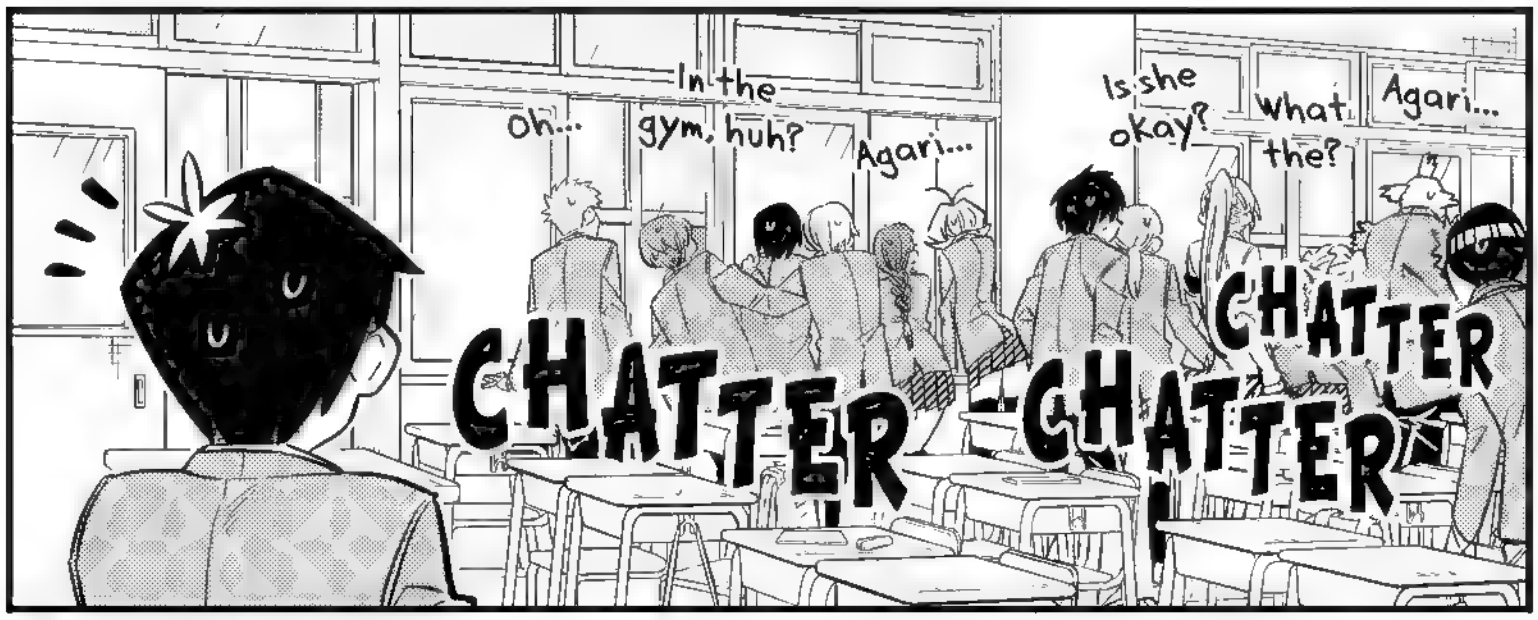
?!

FLINCH

Waaaah!

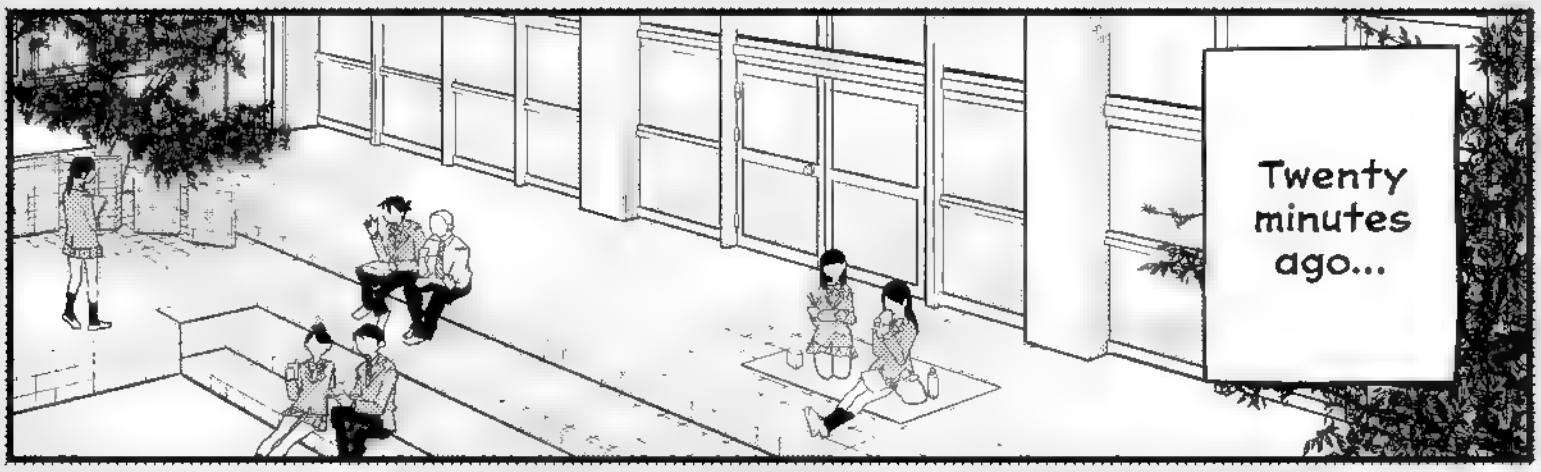
HUH?!
BWAAH
P.E. IS IN THE GYM SIXTH PERIOD !!

BOW
WHOOSH
I...
I...
NO WAY!
NO WAY ...
PWOOOOH
I SAID IT!



Communication 14-A — The End

Communication 14-B: Nervous



KOMI WILL GET ALONG WITH SOME PEOPLE BETTER THAN OTHERS!
ANYWAY, SHE CAN'T BE FRIENDS WITH JUST ANYONE.
WE CAN USE THIS TO CHOOSE KOMI'S NEXT FRIEND!
I'VE LISTED MY FRIENDS (THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY) WITH PERSONALITY TRAITS CLOSEST TO KOMI'S!
TAH-DAH
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING!
Hall-way
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING THIS UP?
HEH HEH HEH!

OH, THE NER-VOUS GIRL?

YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE!

SNICKER

HIMIKO AGARI!

...IS IN KOMI'S CLASS.

PEEK

OUR TOP CANDI-DATE ...

See Communication 1.

SHE'S GREAT, BUT SHE SUCKS AT INTER-PERSONAL RELATIONS.

JITTER JITTER

Is someone looking at me?

TH-THAT SOUNDS SEVERE!

...IF A SINGLE PERSON EVEN LOOKS AT HER, SHE BLUSHES, GOES INTO CONVULSIONS, CAN'T BREATHE, STAMMERS, SWEATS BULLETS, GETS STOMACH CRAMPS, ETC., ETC.

TO BE PRECISE ...

HEIGHT: 5'6". SIGN: PISCES. BLOOD TYPE: B. FAVORITE FOODS: TOMATOES, AVOCADOS, WHITE RICE. MEASURE-MENTS: 34-27...

KOE-!!

K...

Feels an intense affinity

PHEW

PAT

PAT

NOW FOR CANDI-DATE NUMBER TWO!

?!

Komi can't commu-nicate, but she can take action.

VANISHED

HM? WHERE'S KOMI?

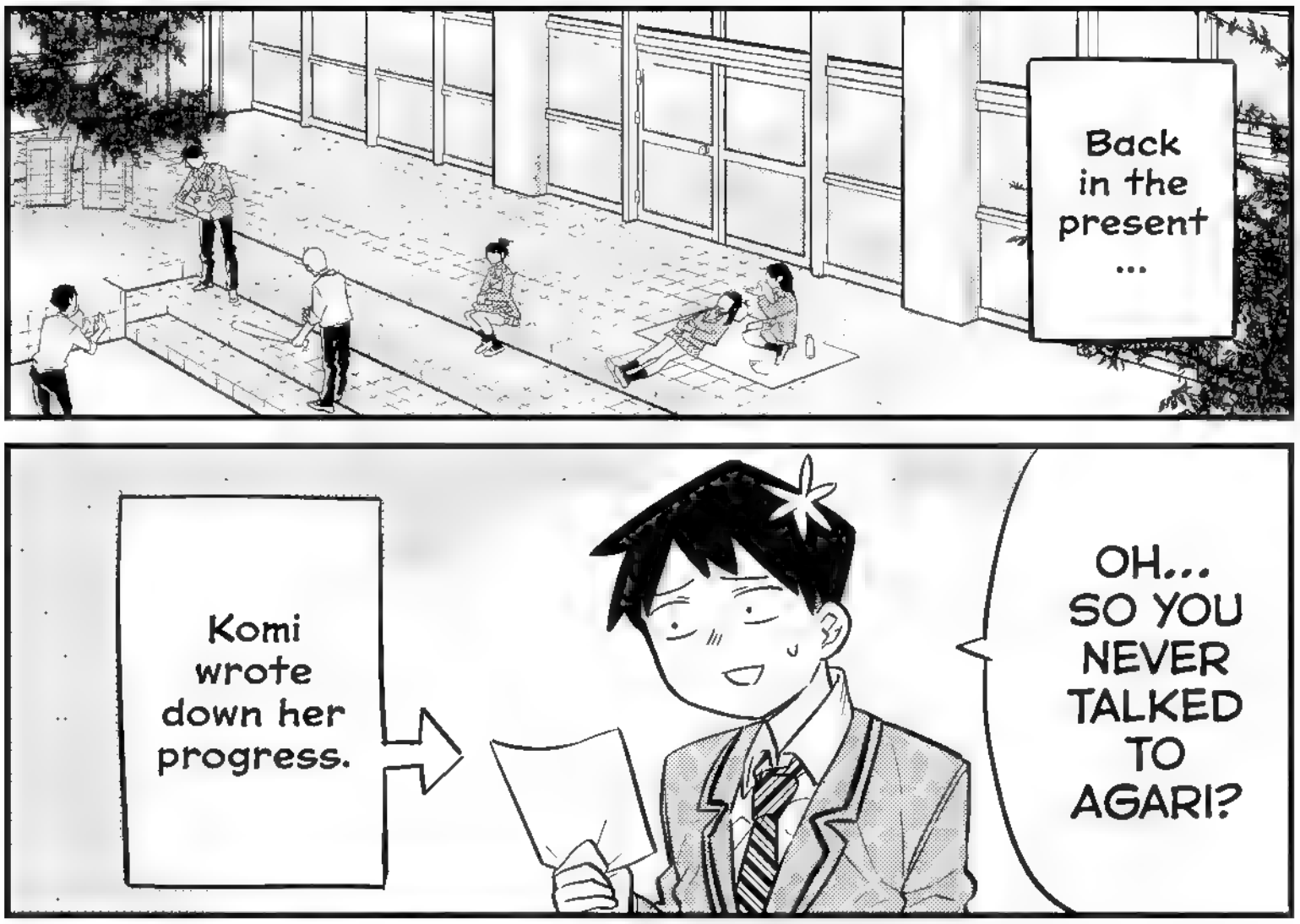
Agari felt eyes on her and evacuated to the library.

HM? AGARI'S GONE TOO.

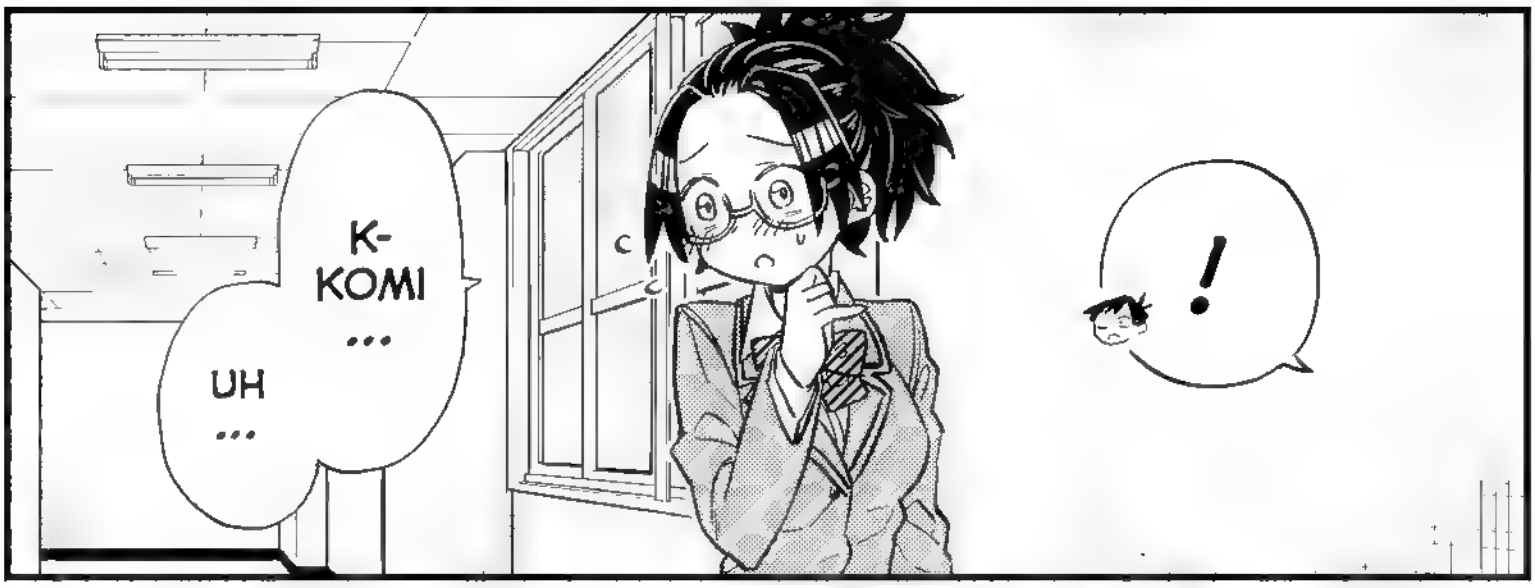
?!!

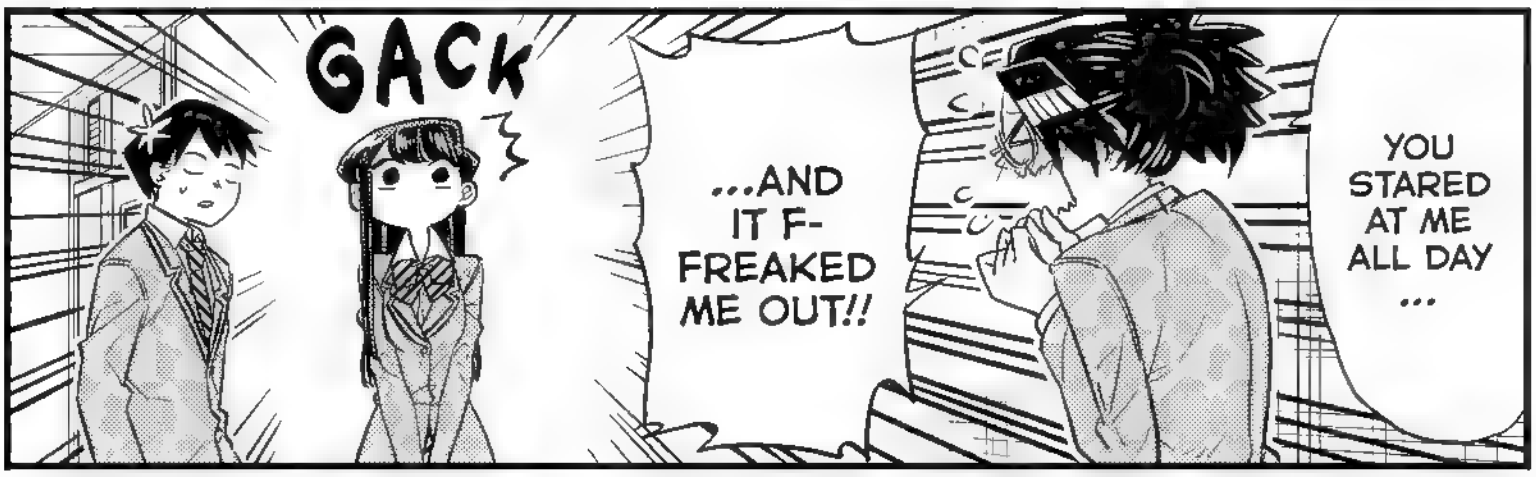
Komi followed Agari but was too nervous to talk to her.

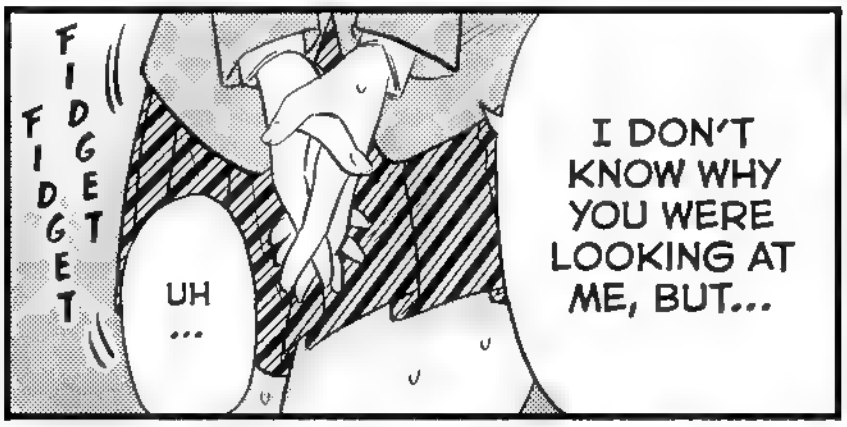
Communication 14-B — The End


Back in the present ...
Komi wrote down her progress.
OH... SO YOU NEVER TALKED TO AGARI?

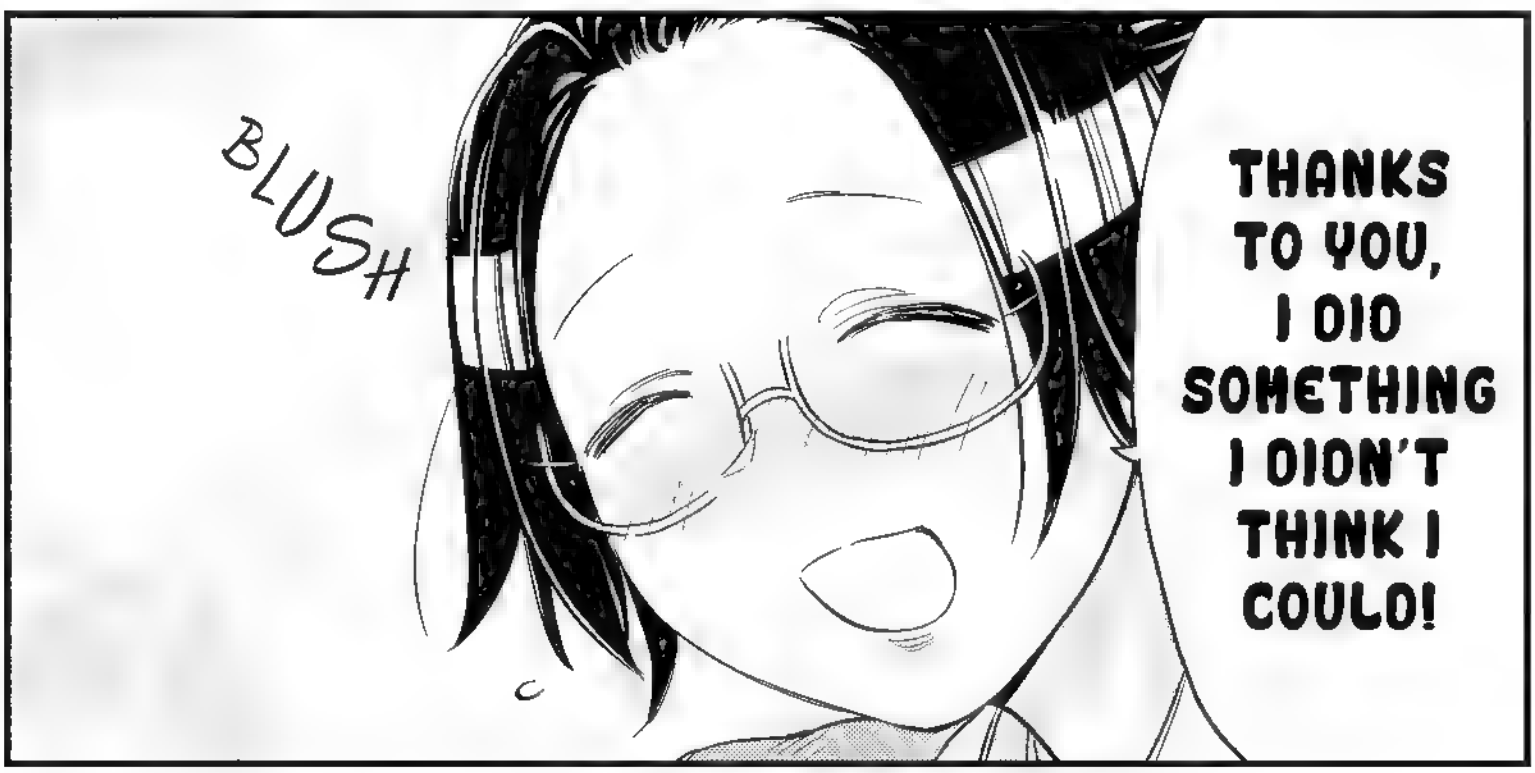
Uh-oh ...
GLOOM
GLOOM
UM...
IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
GLOOM


K-
KOMI
...
UH
...
!

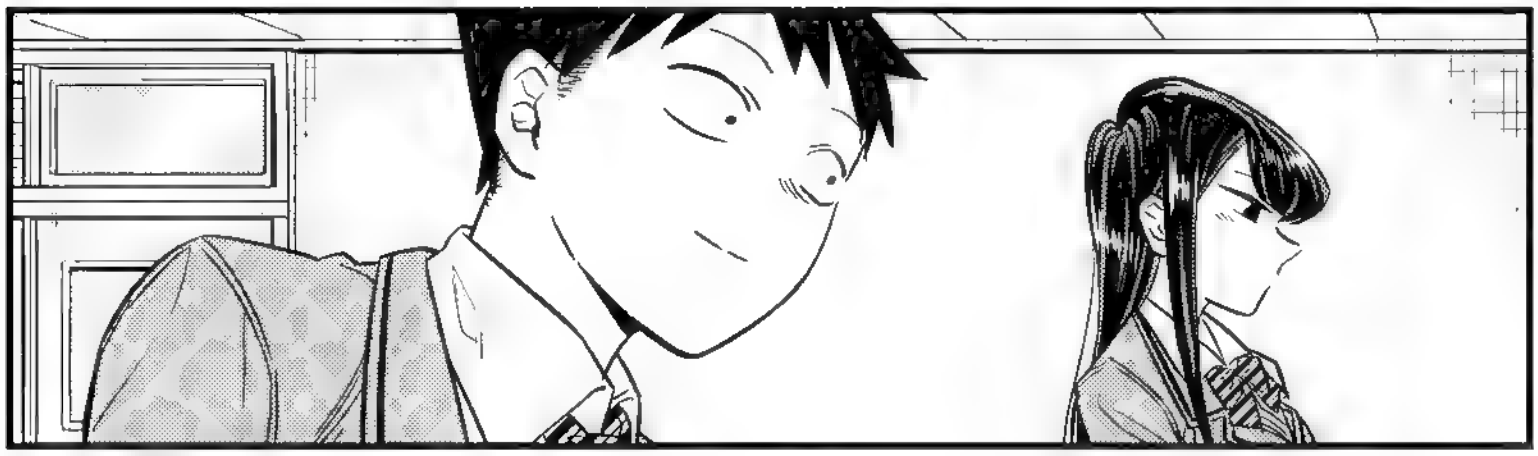

GACK
...AND IT F-FREAKED ME OUT!!
YOU STARED AT ME ALL DAY ...


FIDGET FIDGET
UH
...
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU WERE LOOKING AT ME, BUT...

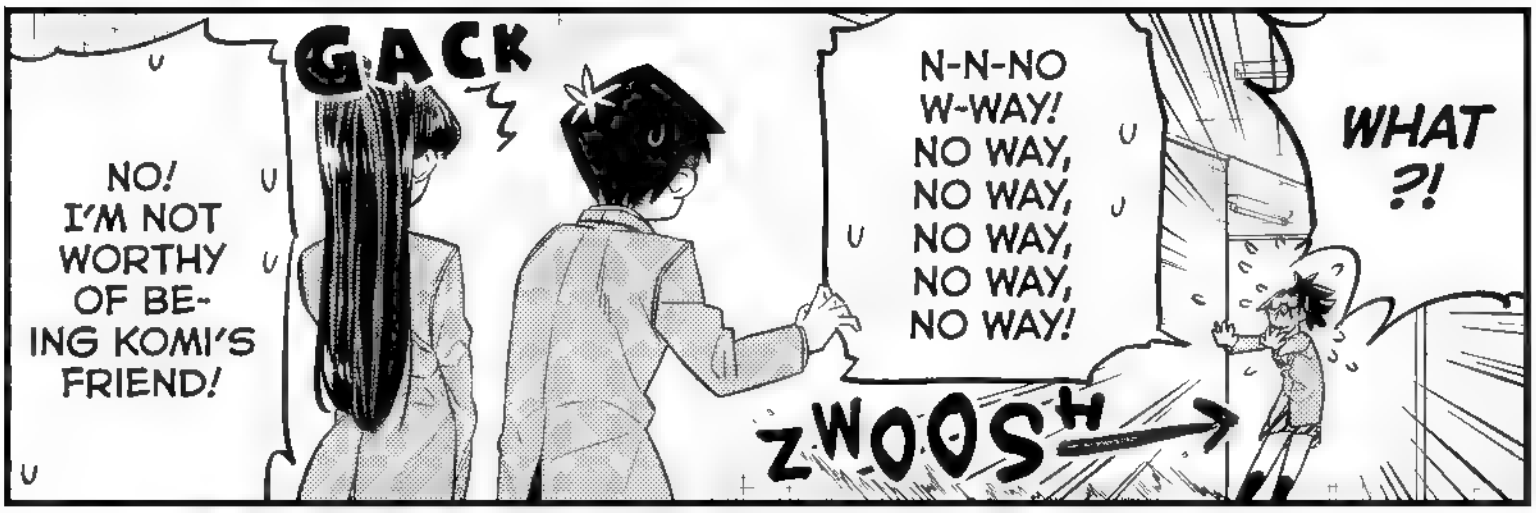
GACK GACK GACK
UM...

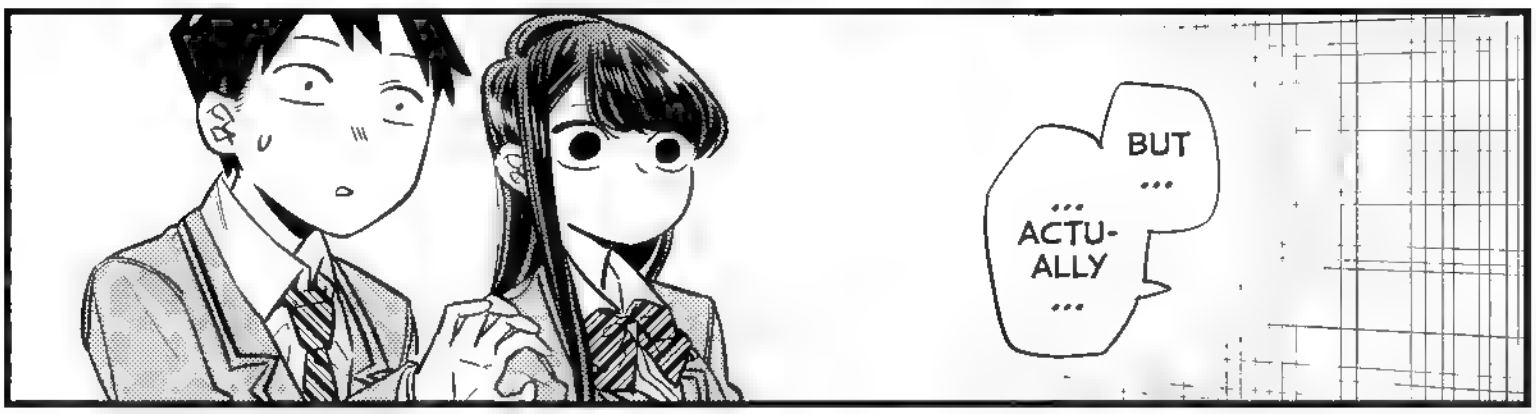

BLUSH
THANKS TO YOU, I DID SOMETHING I DIDN'T THINK I COULD!

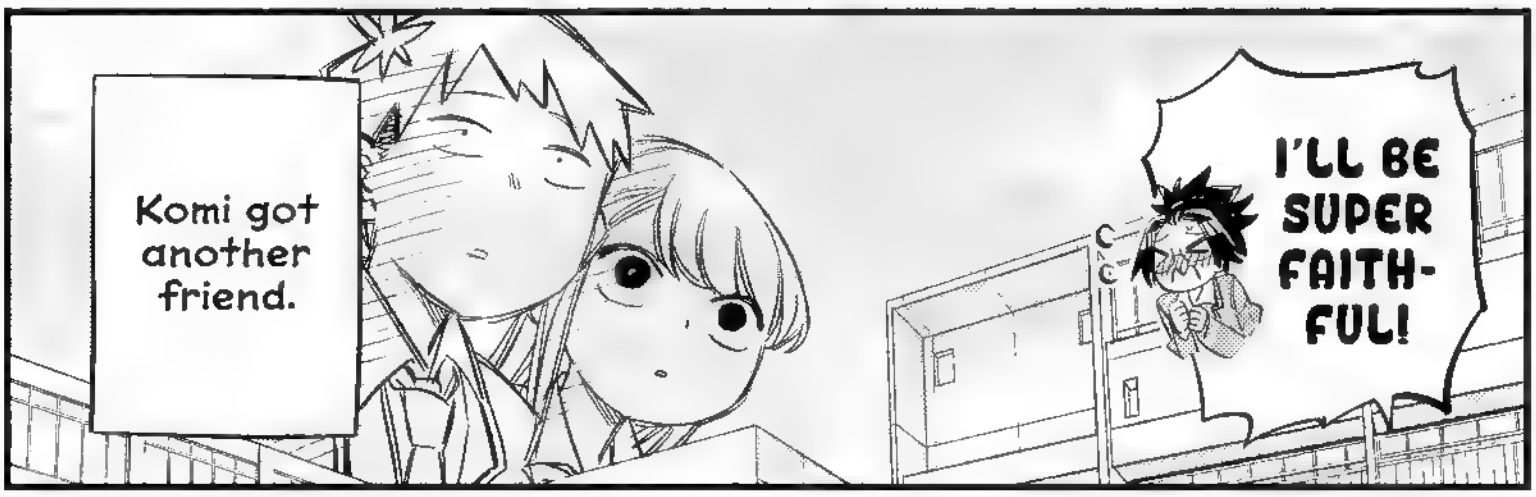
BOW
... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
SO, UM...



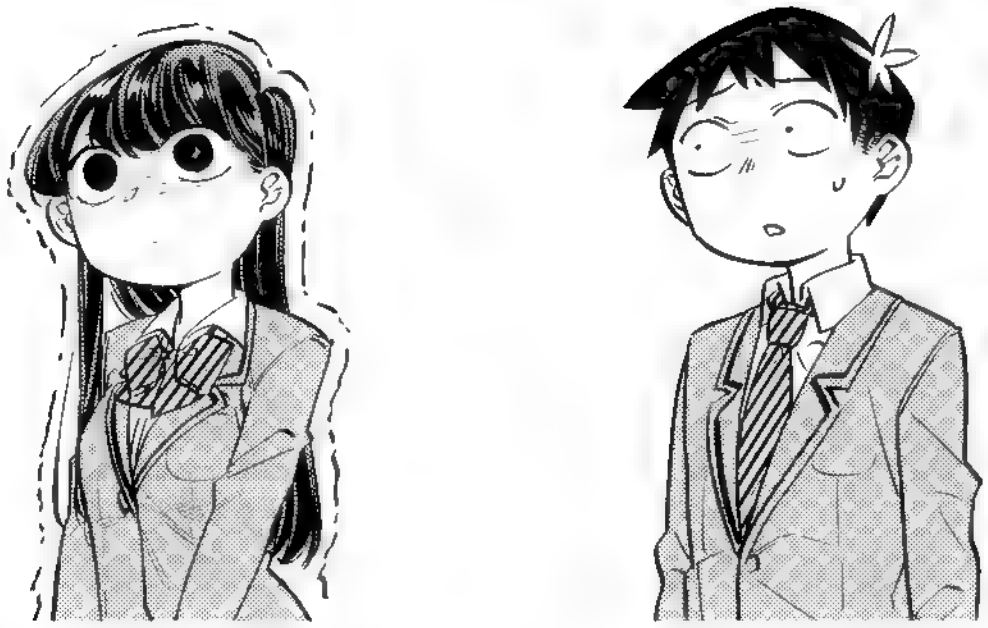
I SENSE A MATCH HERE!
WANNA BE FRIENDS?
NOW!







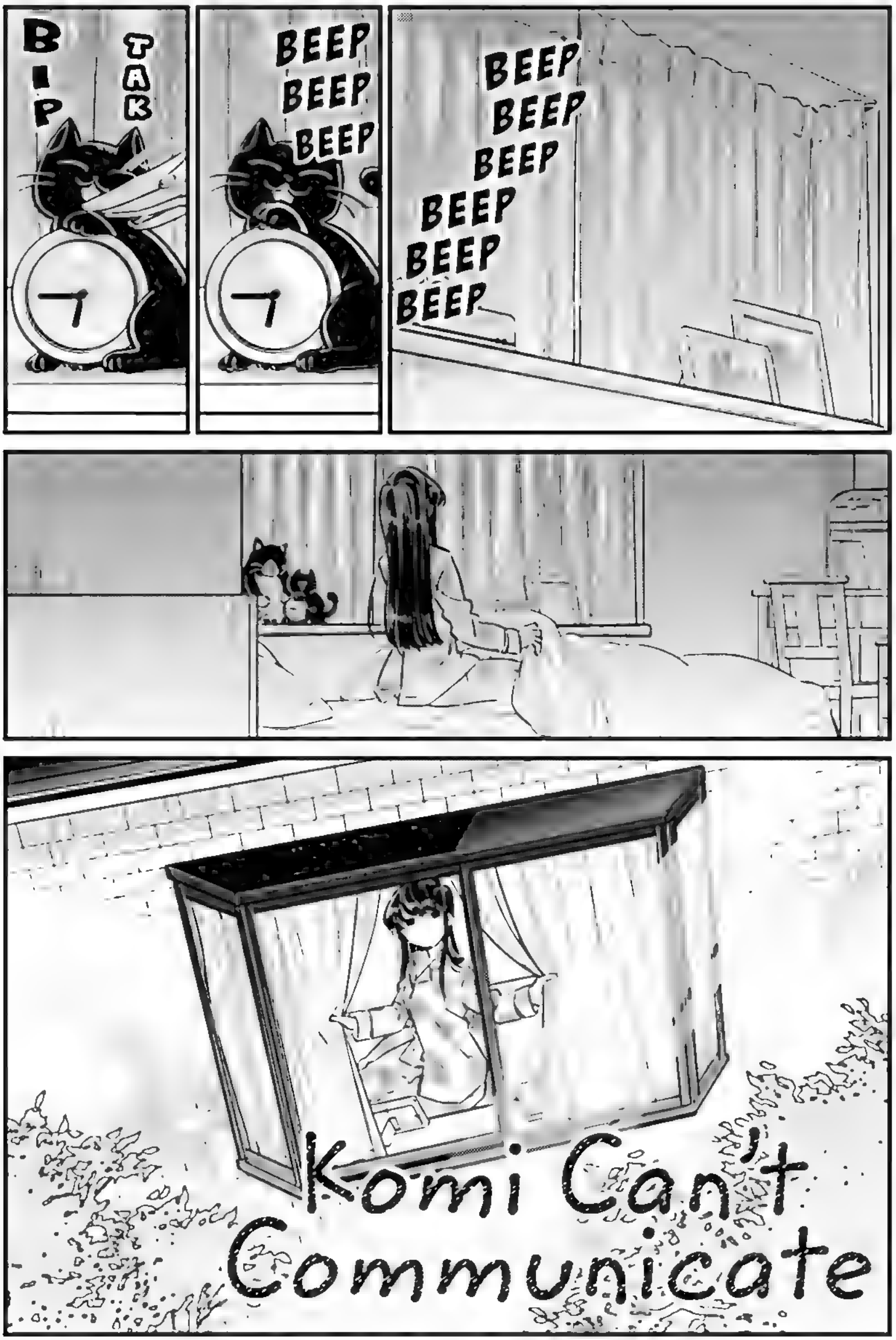
Communication 14 — The End



Komi Can't Communicate

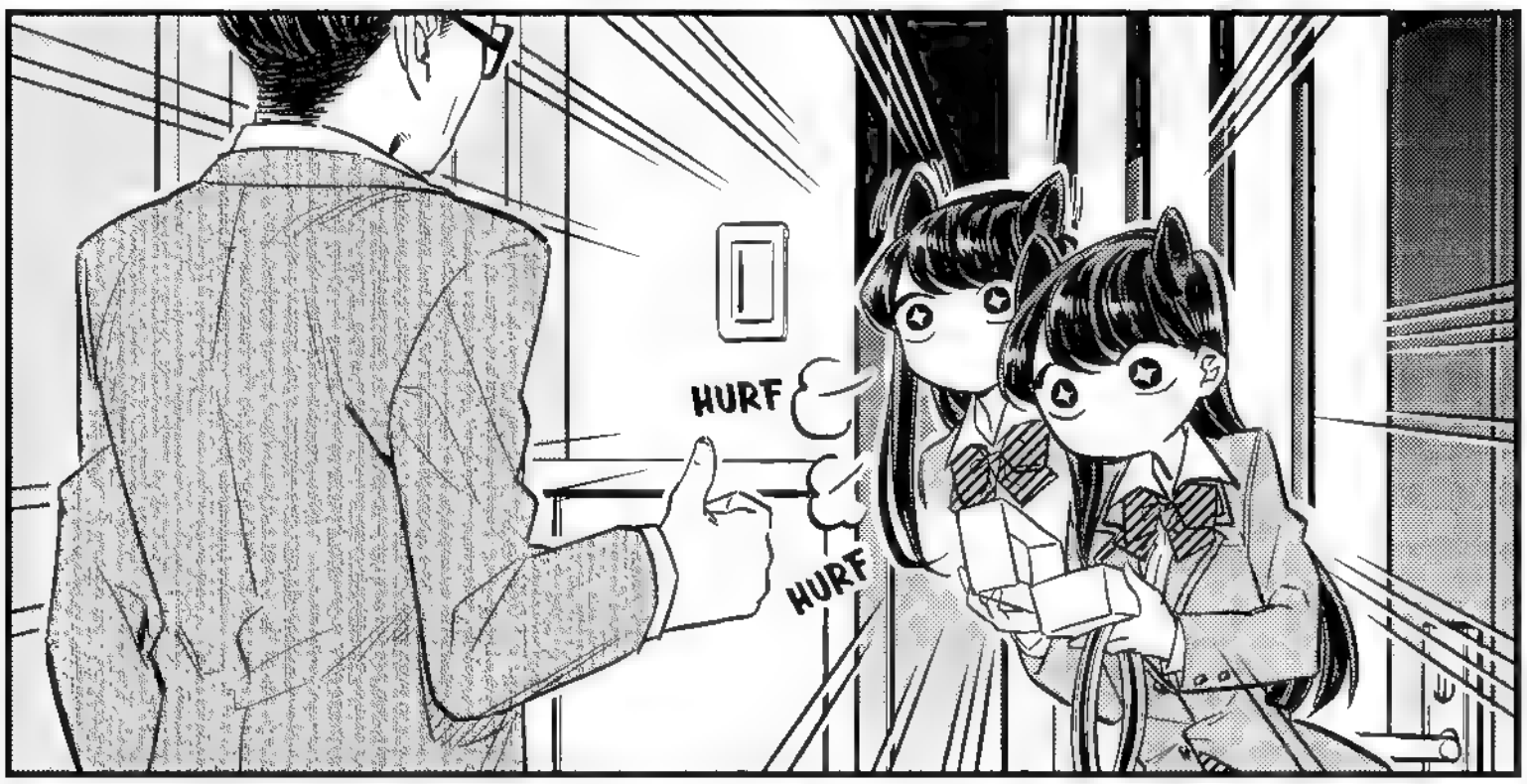
Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 15: Going to School



FUMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
PERK

Shoko
KNOCK KNOCK


HURF
HURF

CLANK

KACHAK

SWIF

STAARE

CRINGE

HOOE

Kyaah!
SWOON♥
Komiii!
Pure beauty!
SOB
Komiii!
Whoa!
She's so pretty!
SWISH-
Everyone else's perspective
GLEAM
WHISPER
PSST PSST
WHISPER
PSST
SNICKER
STAAARE-
Komi's perspective
UGH
!
STAGGER

Communication 15 — The End

Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 16: Cell Phone

Pushed the wrong button

BIP BIP BIP

BIP BIP

!

FIDGET

Okay, now he's a bit fazed.

Held Delete too long and erased every-thing

?!

BABIPP

BIP BIP BIP

BUT IT'S AN OLD-STYLE FLIP PHONE ?!

Resorted to writing on paper

I finally got a cell phone.

DADUM

NOD

YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE BEFORE?

THAT'S SO SAD!

I didn't need one.

"But now I need one."

KOMIII !!

Moved to tears

Thanks to you, I have friends now.

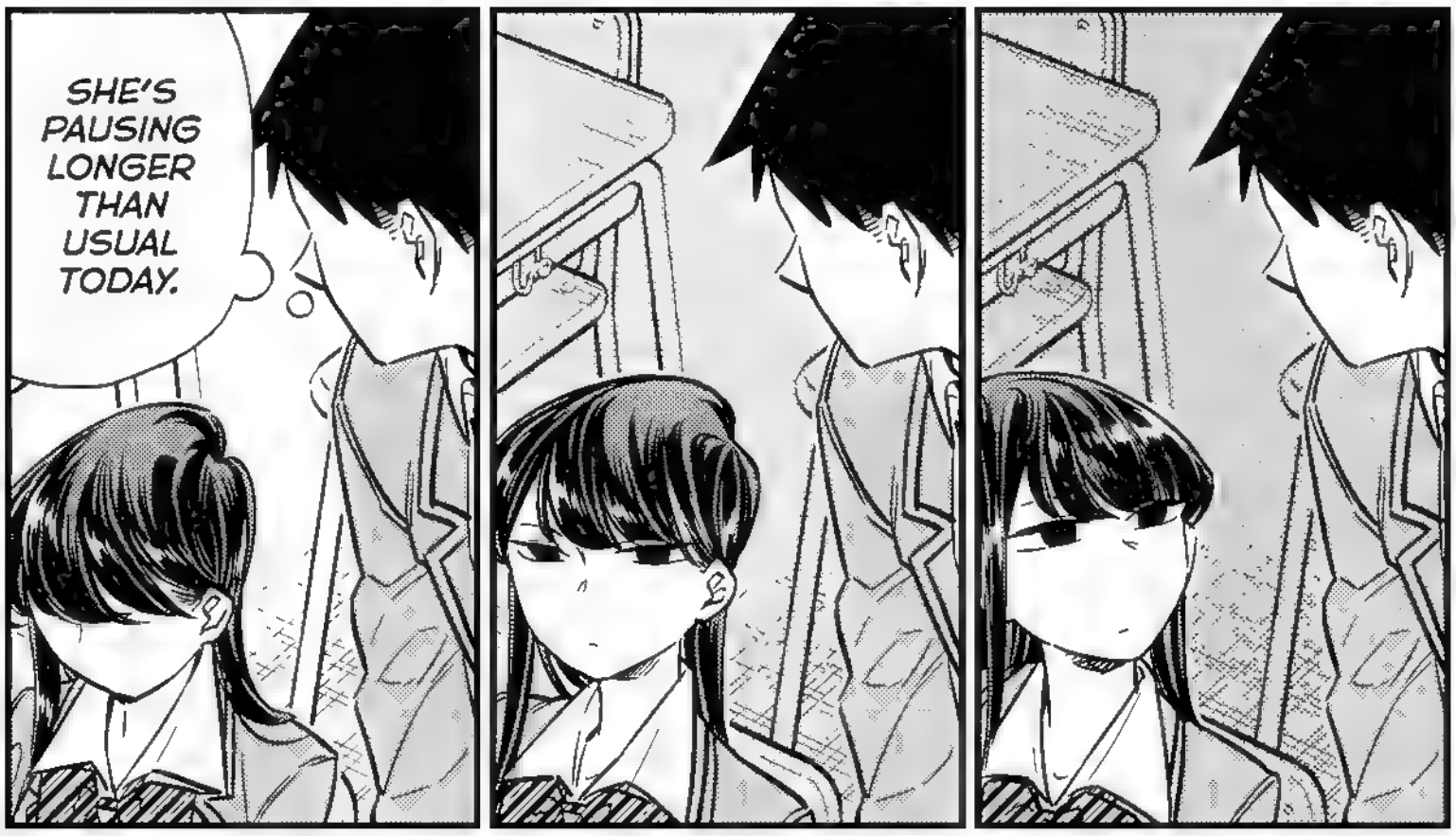
!
And, um...

...
SKRTCH SKRTCH
...

?
GLANCE
...

WHY THE LONG PAUSE?
OH, RIGHT.
Says she wants her friends' phone numbers

!
CHAK
THEN LET'S GO ASK NAJIMI AND AGARI.


SHE'S PAUSING LONGER THAN USUAL TODAY.

A parent watching his child grow
KOMI! THIS IS SO SUDDEN!
BABMp
I rely on you too much. I'll do it myself. Somehow.

Najimi's desk

OH!

GOOD MORN-ING, KOMI!

WHAT'S UP?

MUTTER

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

TREMMBLE

?!

N

W-WHAT ?!

WHY IS SHE POINTING AN OLD PHONE AT ME?!

TADA-NO!

INTER-PRET!

INTER-PRET!

TUMP

TUMP

SORRY, NAJIMI. ALL I CAN DO IS WATCH.

Benevolent Observer

THE DATE ...

NUM-BERS?

April 14 Thurs.

POINK

CELL PHONE?

SWIP

N

PAPER?

WHY DON'T I JUST PUNCH IT IN FOR–

AH!

GOOD!

What's he doing?

THIS IS GOOD!

NOD

UM... YOU WANT MY CELL NUMBER?

WHY IS NAJIMI TALKING ABOUT ME?!

...BUT HE'S *DUMB.*

TADANO'S HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE...

Get a smart-phone so we can play games!

OH, I GET IT...

GOOD MORN-ING!

OH!

K-KOMI!

Agari's desk

...

Agari...

OR LICK YOUR SHOES?

SHALL I BUY YOU A DRINK?

WANT A MAS-SAGE?

...is Komi's dog.

SMILE

HUH?

SWIP

Komi gave up.

I'M OVER-JOYED !!

PANT PANT PANT

YOU WANT A GOOFY PICTURE OF ME FOR YOUR WALL-PAPER?!

Komi came back.

AND YOU GOT NAJIMI'S NUMBER!

WELL ...

...YOU DID YOUR BEST!

?

SWIP

BUT OF COURSE! A PHONE IS THE BEST WAY TO CALL A DOG!!

?!

BYOING

S-SORRY!! YOU WANTED MY CELL NUMBER?! I MISUNDER-STOOD!

HUFF

HUFF

THAT'S WHAT NAJIMI SAID, SO...

KOMI WANTS TADANO'S NUMBER TO BE FIRST, SO WRITE YOURS ON A PIECE OF PAPER.

ANY-WAY ...

UM ...

IS THIS A BAD TIME?

NOD

OH ...

...ALL RIGHT.

FIDGET FIDGET

O...

PING BIP

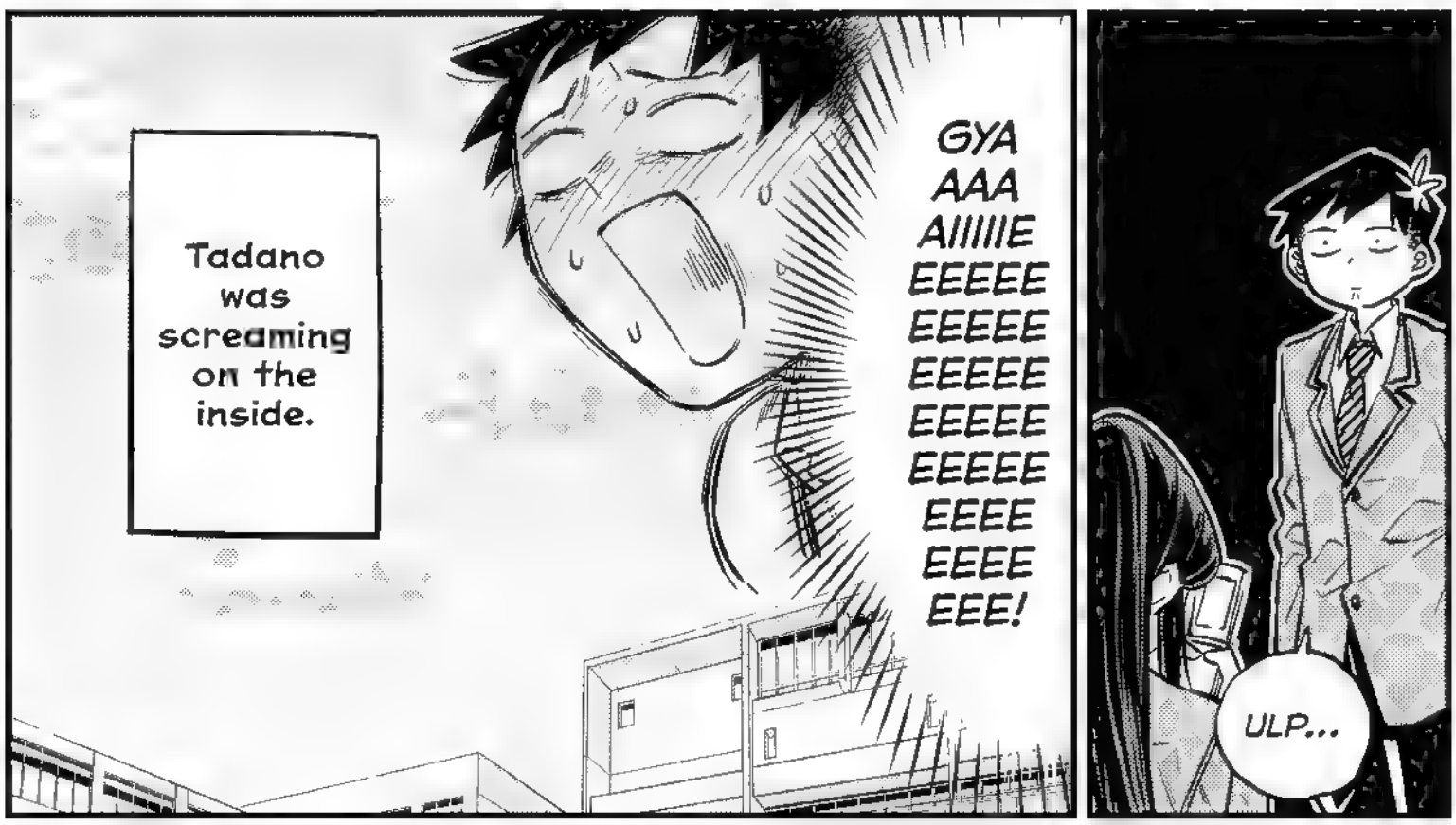
BIP BIP BIP

IN TH-THAT CASE ...

Can't look at each other

H... HERE.

Hitohito Tadano
001



Communication 16 — The End

Komi Can't Communicate

Communication 17: Class Council Election

?!

YES! I NOMINATE KOMI FOR CLASS PRESI-DENT!

SHE'S SO SERENE!

AND ELE-GANT!

AND CHARIS-MATIC!

AND PRETTY!

SHE HAS A CERTAIN MATURE BEAUTY BUT HAS LOTS OF ACCESSORIES WITH A *BLACK-CAT* MOTIF!

AND HER IRISES HAVE A HINT OF *VIOLET!*

SHE IRONS HER CLOTHES EVERY DAY!

AND HER INDEX FINGER IS THE PERFECT LENGTH!

HEIGHT: 5'6"! INSEAM: 33 IN-CHES!

STRIDE LENGTH: 20 INCHES!

AND TYPE-A PEOPLE ARE SUPER PUNCTI-LIOUS!

SO WOULDN'T SHE BE A GREAT CLASS PRESI-DENT?!

Well said!

WHERE DID SHE GET ALL THAT INFO?!

Candidates

Secretary

Vice President

Class President

Komi

ANY OTHER CANDI-DATES?

NO? THEN ...

...IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU...

...KO-MI?

Huh?

Hm?

HA HA HA! SHE'S TREMBLING WITH ENTHU-SIASM!

BLUM

TREMBLE

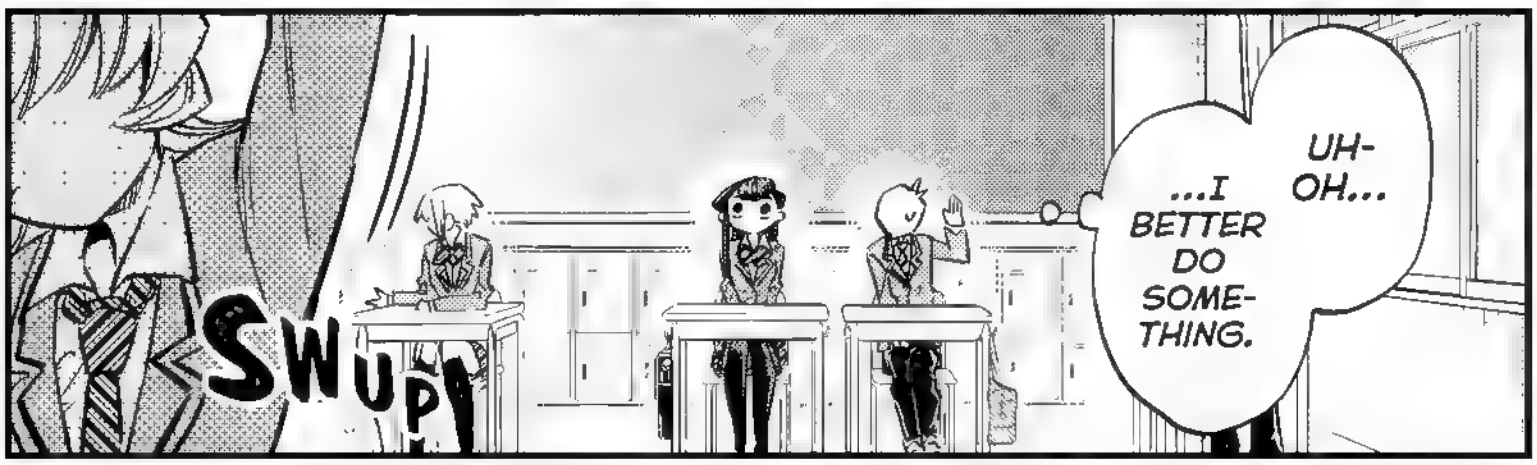
RATTLE

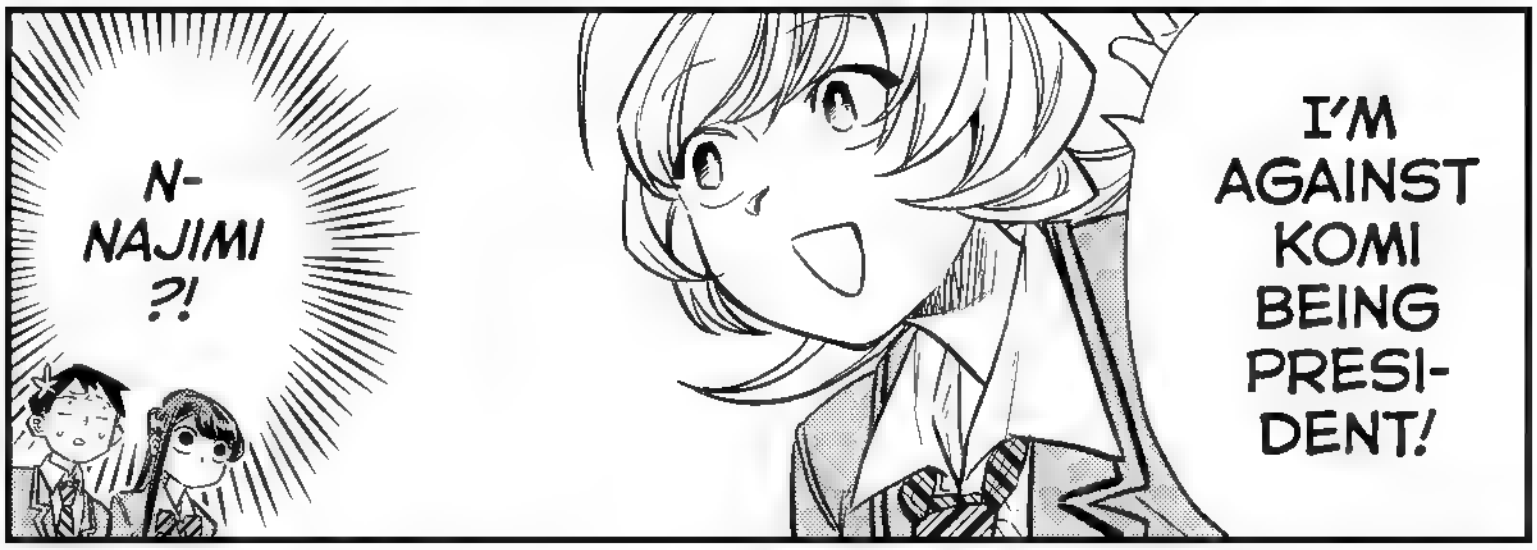
JOLT

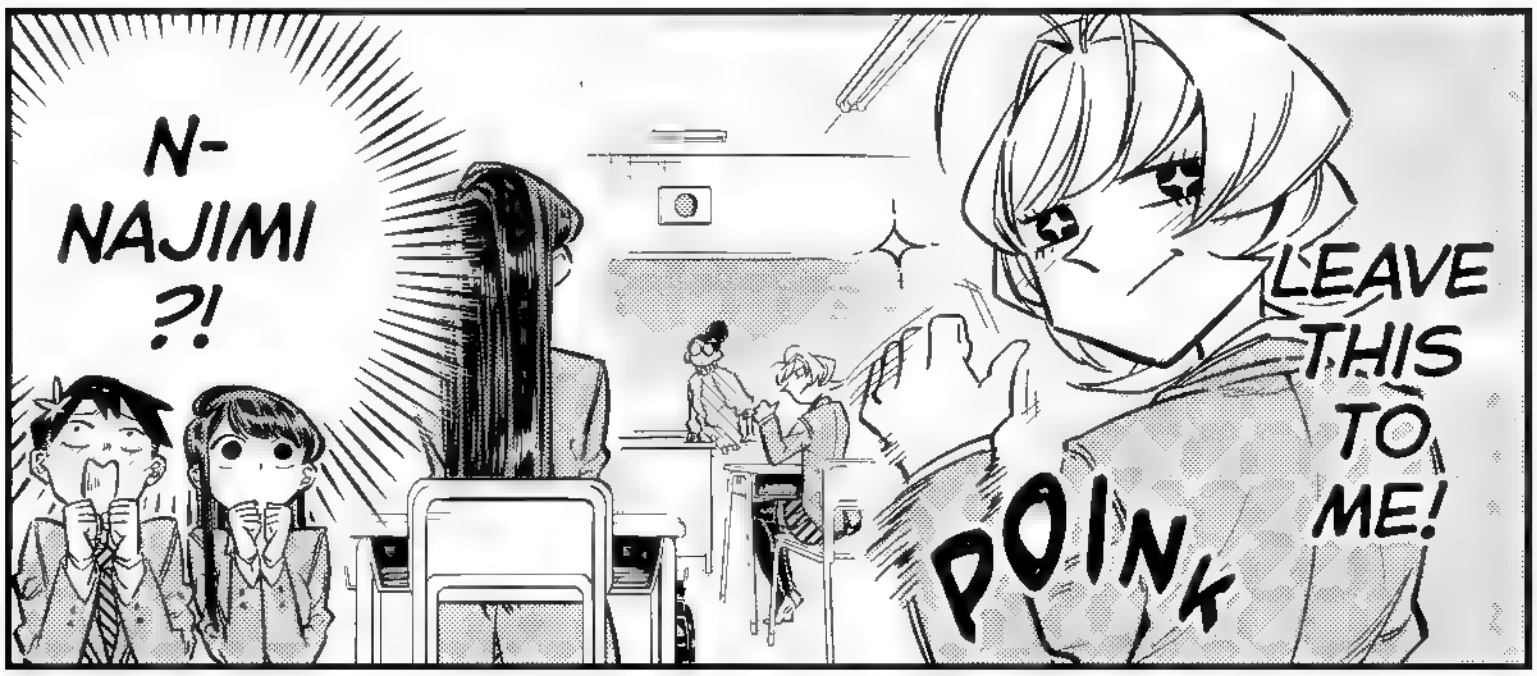
SHAKE

Definitely not all right

Komi's in the pinch of the century.
"H-help..."


SWUP!
...I BETTER DO SOME-THING.
UH-OH...


N-NAJIMI ?!
I'M AGAINST KOMI BEING PRESI-DENT!


N-NAJIMI ?!
POINK
LEAVE THIS TO ME!

WHAT A SEEDY BUNCH!
CLOM
DO WE GOTTA GET ROUGH WITH YA?!
EXPLAIN YOUR-SELF!!
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
CLOMP
HUNH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?!
IS THIS TREA-SON?!
IS NAJIMI MAKING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO HELP KOMI?!
GASP
BLOOP
UHHH?
UHHH?
OH?
THINK ABOUT IT, GUYS.
HM?
...THAT'S RIGHT!!
HUH? YEAH...!
CLASS PRESI-DENT ISN'T NEARLY GRAND ENOUGH FOR KOMI!!

HM? HMM??

GRAAH

En-joying this

I DEMAND A *HIGHER* POSITION FOR HER!!

URRRRRGH!

YEAH

LET'S BRAIN-STORM POSI-TIONS FOR KOMI!!

YEAH ...

UH-HUH ...

YES ...

God ⇔ Chairwoman ⇔ Principal

Boss Lady
I

Empress
I

Shogun
I

She Whose Name Must Not Be Spoken
I

CEO
I

Her Majesty
II

Big Cheese
II

Head Honcho

TRMBL

CLAP

God

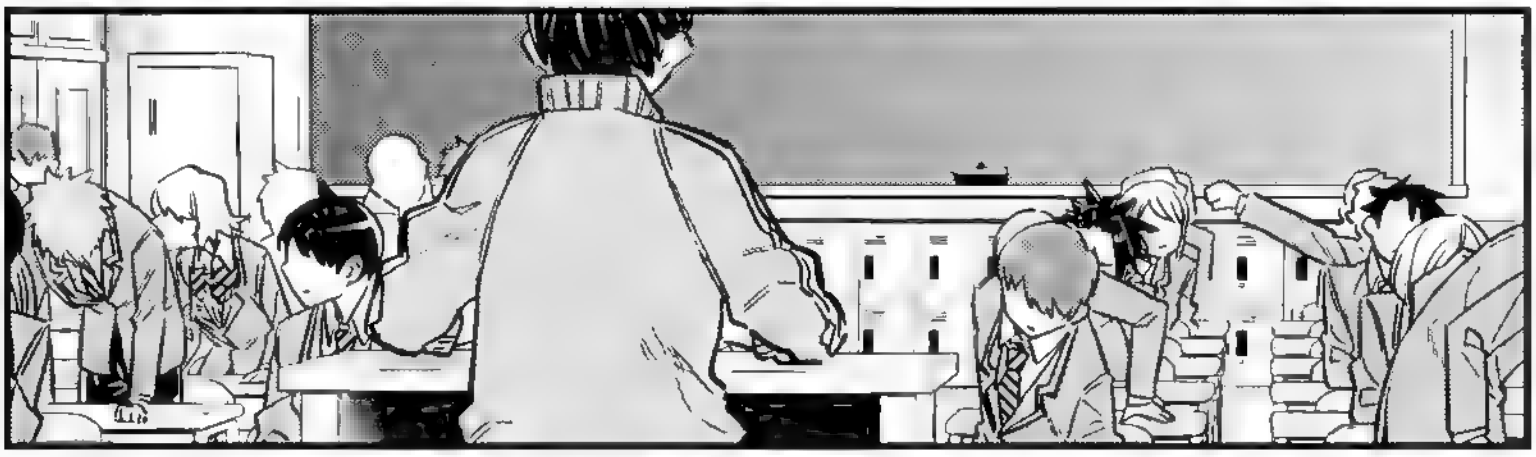
ALL RIGHT, KOMI'S POSITION IS *GOD.*

ANY VOLUNTEERS OR NOMINATIONS?

Class President

THEN WHO WILL BE CLASS PRESIDENT?

KOMI! GOD! KOMI!



THEY FORCED ME INTO IT!

VERY WELL. IT'S DECIDED.

WHO CARES? I VOTE TADANO!

SERVE KOMI'S CLASS, TADANO!

TADANO'LL DO!

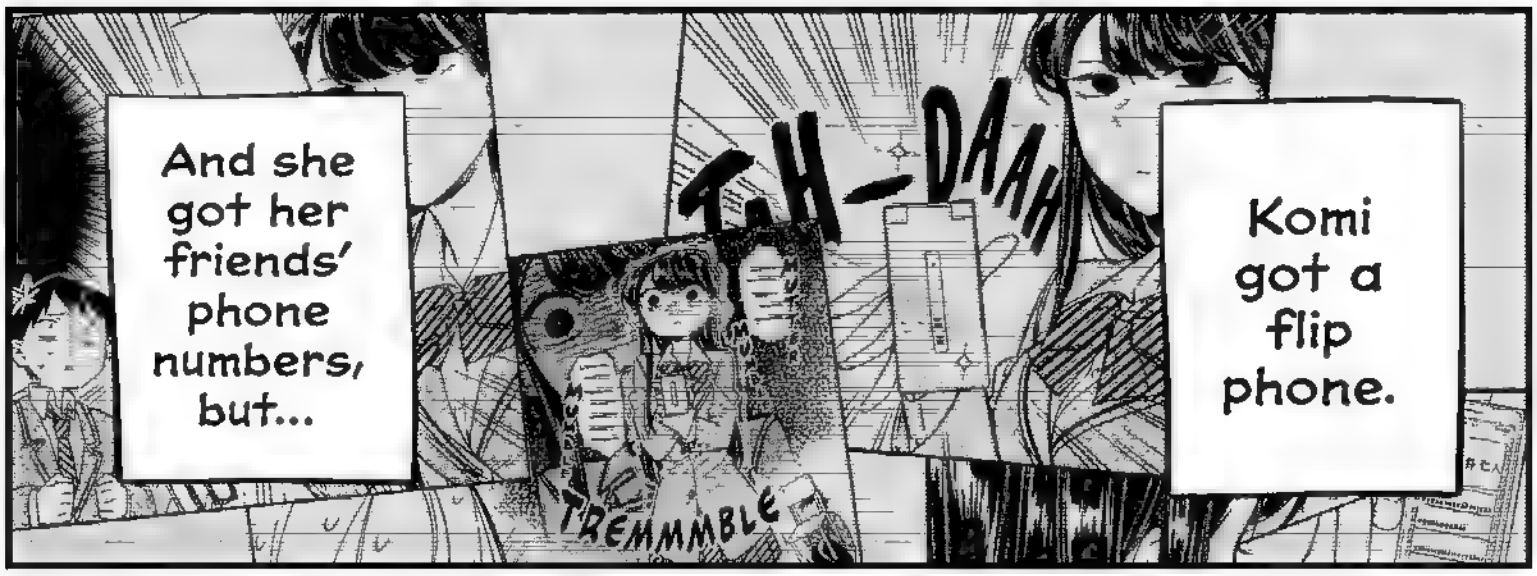
HOW ABOUT TADANO?

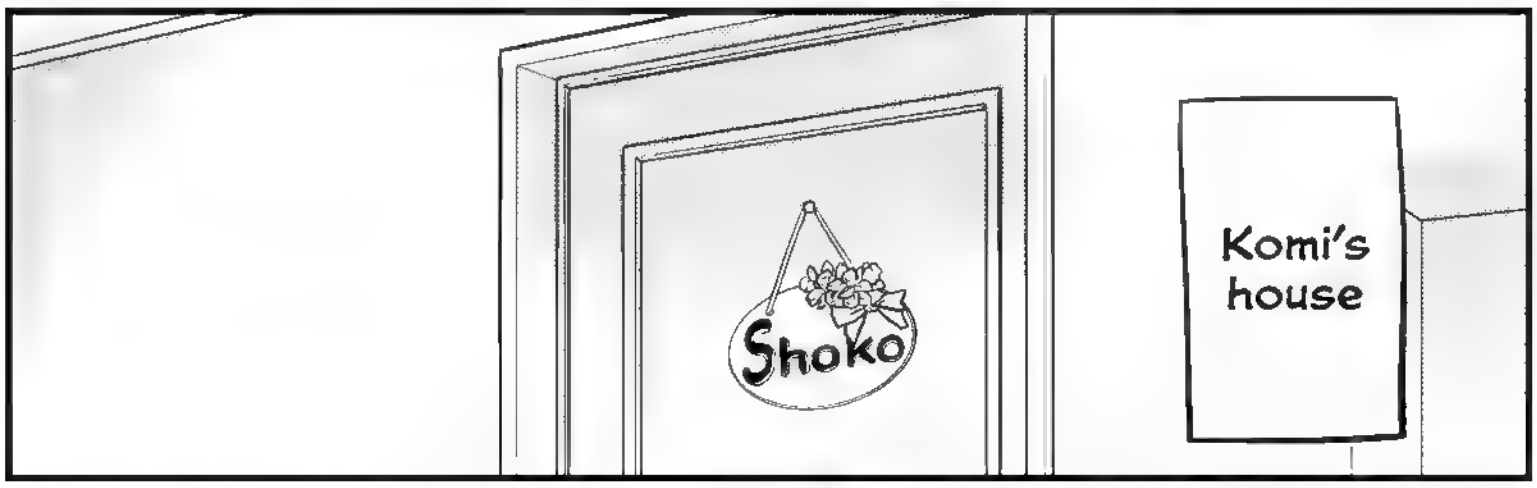
PRESIDENT ISN'T THE TOP ANYMORE, SO HE'S GOOD ENOUGH.

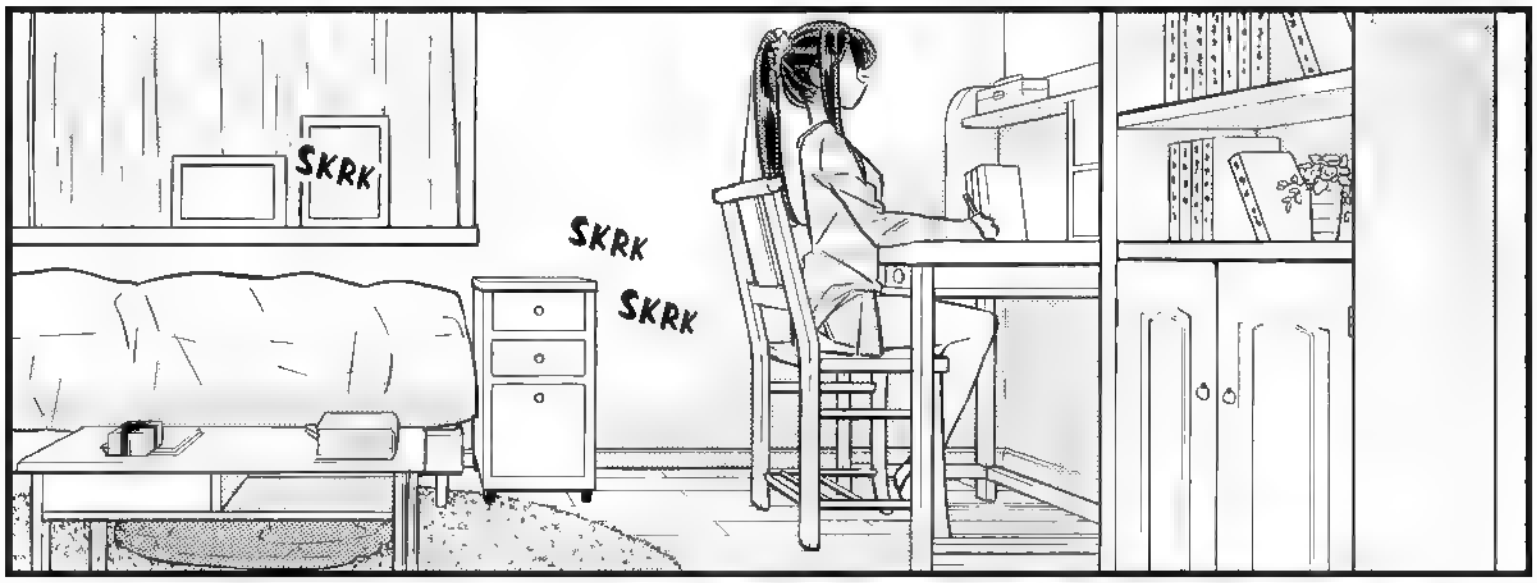
HE'S THE ONLY CHOICE.

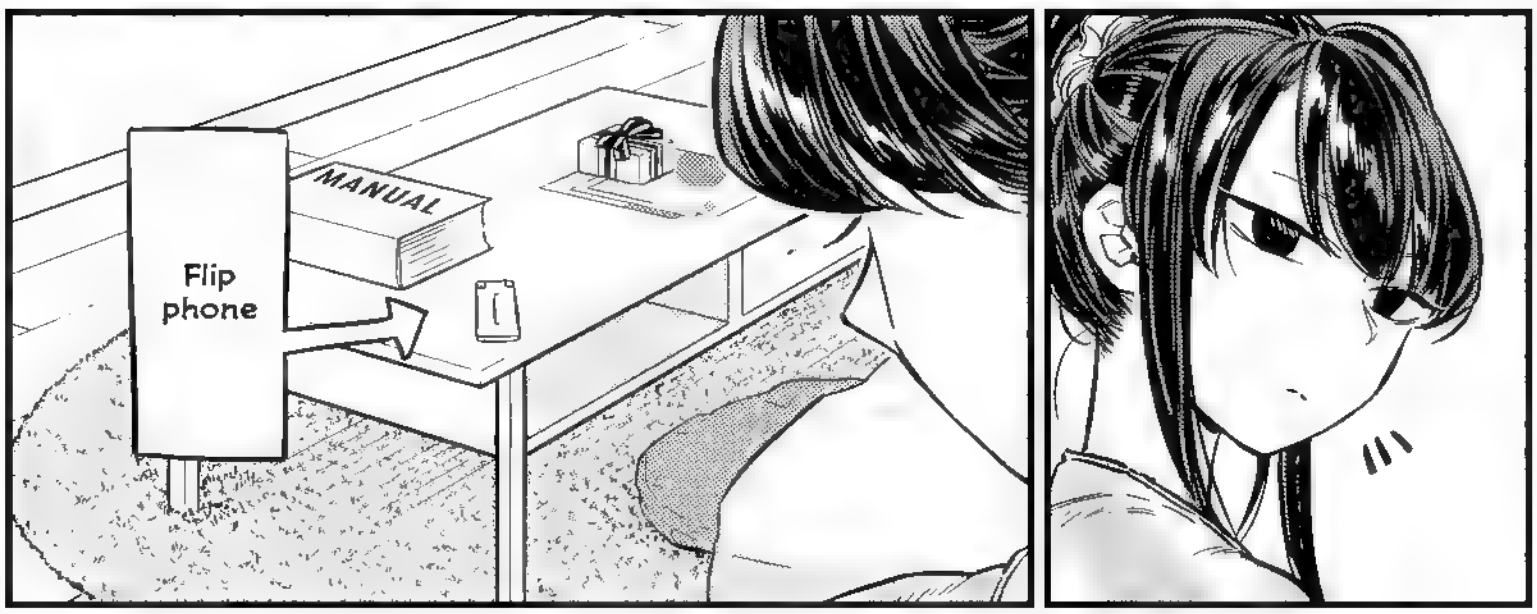
Communication 17 — The End

Komi Can't
Communicate

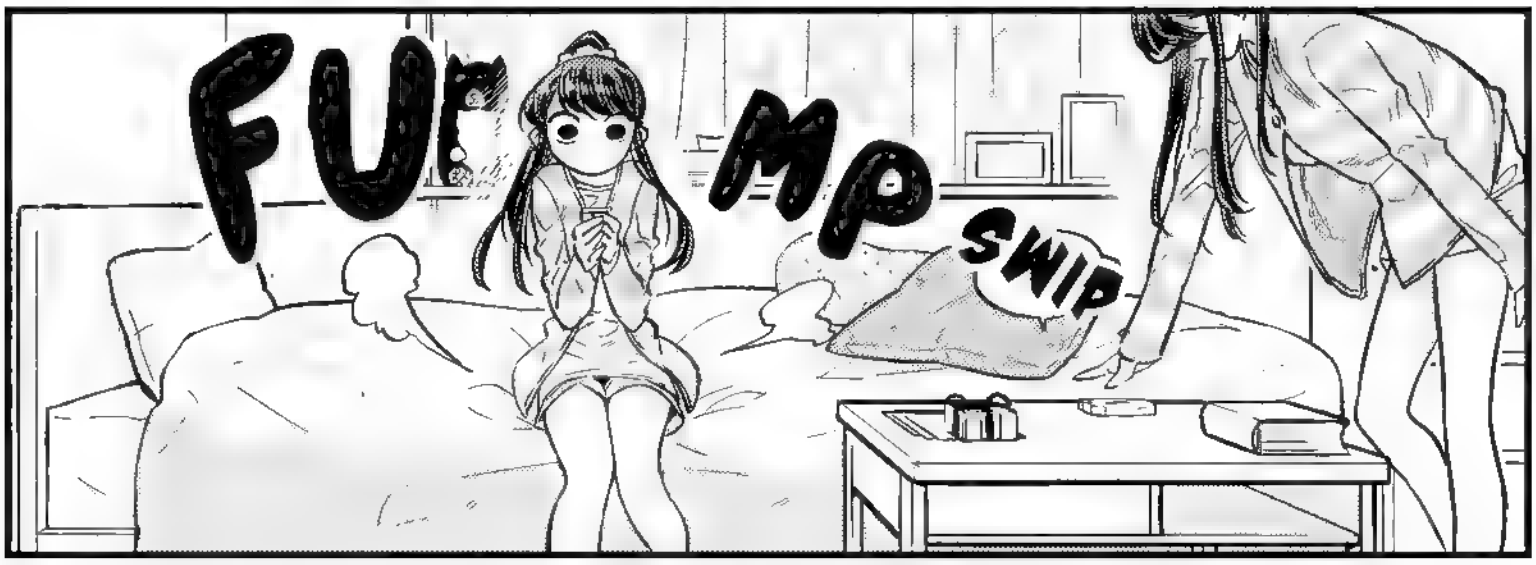


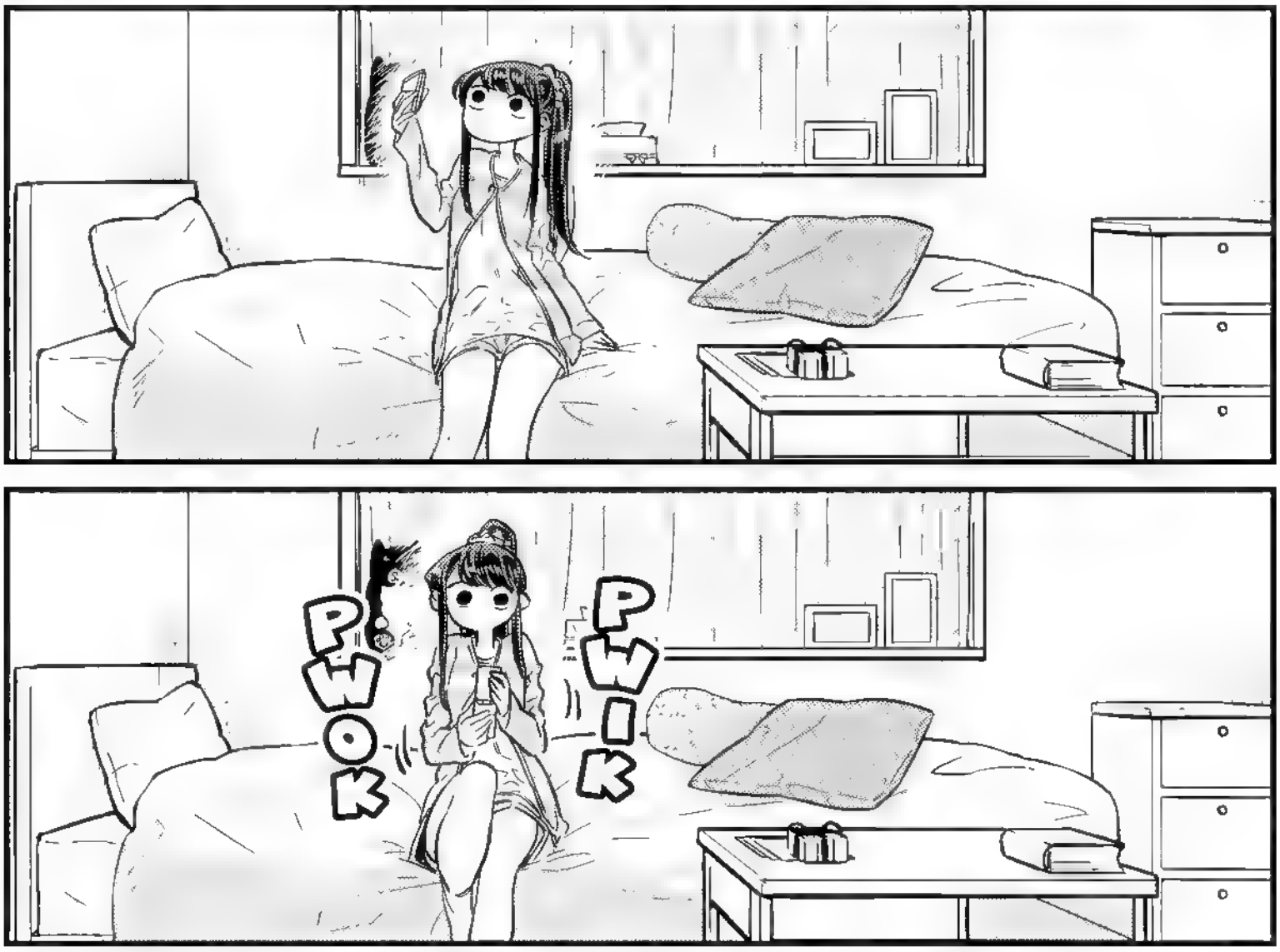






Communication 18: Accidental Phone Call


FUMP
SWIP


PWOK
PWIK

Still happy just to have it

RRRING

BIP

BIP

BIP

BZZZ

BZZZ

BZZZ

BRRRANG

BRRRANG

BRRRANG

Has nothing to do but play with ring-tones

BIP

BIP

BIP

BIP

Has nothing to do but stare at her contacts (six entries including family)

...
All Contacts
Search
Hitohito Tadano
Dad
Mom
Bip
Pretending to make a call
...
...

RRRING
?!
?!
CONVE-NIENCE!!
MAKE CALLS JUST BY RAISING THE PHONE TO YOUR EAR!
IT'S SO HANDY!
WOW!
Paper tucked in the user manual

!!

H-
HELLO
?

RRRING

Komi hanging up

CLIK

WANDER

FIDGET

JITTER

...!!

...!!

...?

...

Panic

FIDGET

...!

WANDER

JITTER

?!

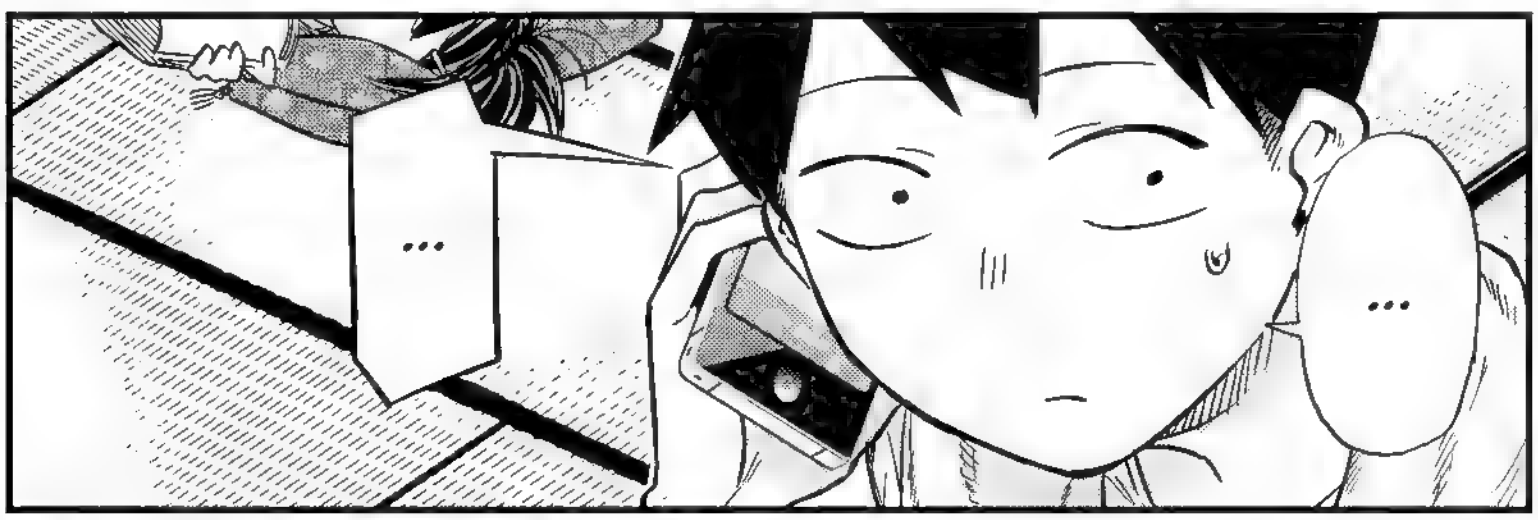
?!

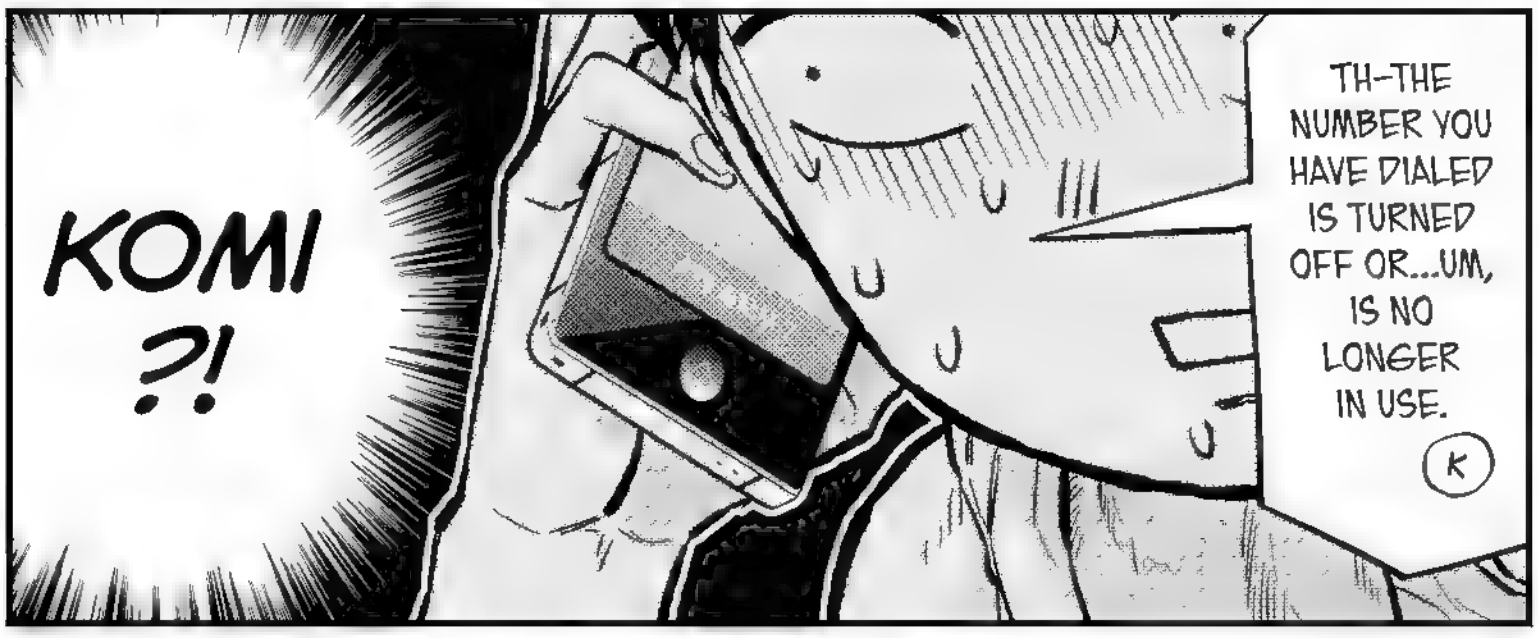
MANUAL

RRRING

UH... HELLO? KOMI?
BIP
Tada-no's house

IF YOU'RE OKAY, MAKE ANY SOUND.
...TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE OKAY.
UM, I ASSUME YOU CALLED BY ACCIDENT, BUT I CALLED YOU BACK ...


...
...


KOMI ?!
TH-THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS TURNED OFF OR...UM, IS NO LONGER IN USE.
K

I GUESS SHE CAN TALK A LITTLE OVER THE PHONE.

MAYBE BECAUSE SHE'S ALONE?

...OKAY.

OH...

SORRY. I CALLED BY ACCIDENT.

SO... BYE.

HUH ?!

THAT WAS FAST!

YEAH... OKAY.

CLIK

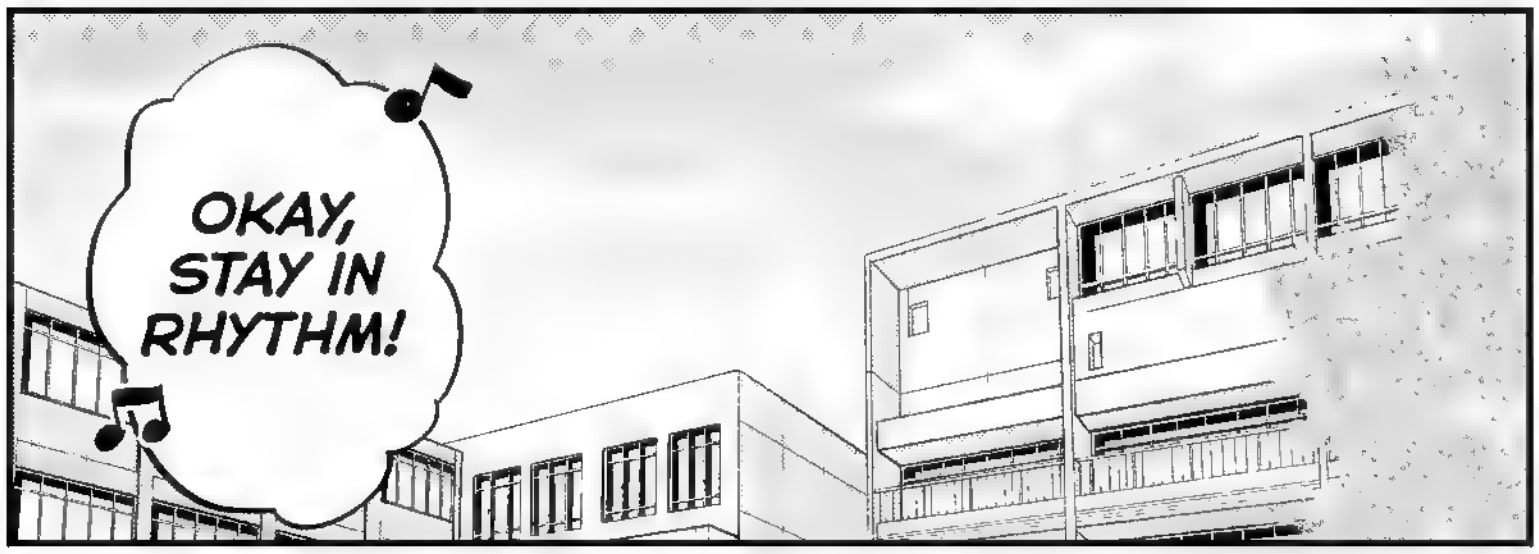
...

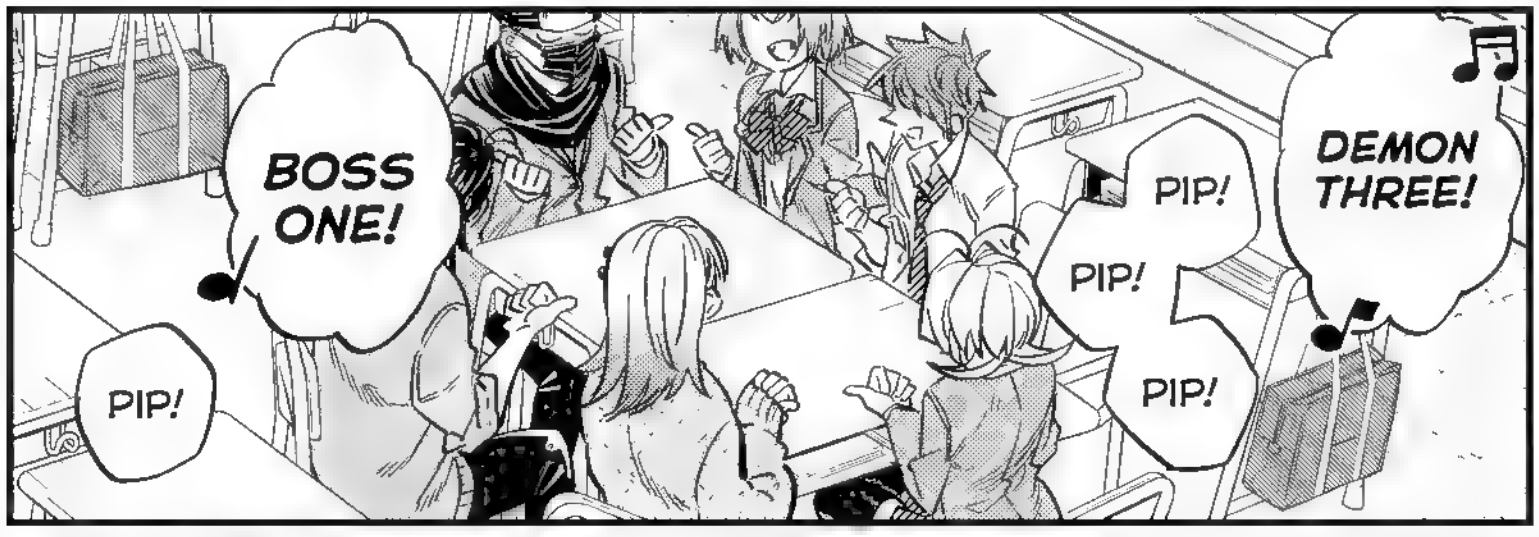
RATTLE

SHUT UP, BIG BRO!

HER VOICE IS GOR-GEOUS !!

Communication 18 — The End


OKAY, STAY IN RHYTHM!


BOSS ONE!
PIP!
PIP!
PIP!
PIP!
DEMON THREE!

GWOO
AH SAI-HA TO!
AH HA HA
SAITO!

OOOO
GWOO
Wants to try
AH HA HA

Communication 19: Saito

Surprised he was watching her

AH HA HA

SAITO!!

JOLT

YOU WANT TO TRY?

The Saito game!

NOD

HAPPY

YAAAY

IRL

BUT THAT'S THE POPULAR GROUP!! JOINING IS A DIFFICULT FEAT! AND KOMI KNOWS IT!

TREMBLE

THIS IS A GOOD DEVELOP-MENT!

Kids with execrable commu-nication skills

HURF

HURF

!

SHAKE

JOLT

WHEN EVERYONE LEAVES AFTER SCHOOL, I'LL GET NAJIMI AND AGARI TO PLAY WITH US IN SECRET!

EVERY STUDENT IN THIS SCHOOL IS MY FRIEND!

MY HOBBY IS MAKING FRIENDS.

One more time?

AH HA HA

I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT MY NAME IS NAJIMI OSANA.

BLAH BLAH BLAH

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

I HAVE REALLY GOOD EARS.

BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH BLAH

... LISTENING TO SEVEN PEOPLE TALK AT ONCE.

THUS, MY SPECIAL SKILL IS...

...TAAA-DAA-NOOO!

I HEARD THAT...

HURF HURF

WE'LL PLAY IN SECRET AFTER SCHOOL !!

?!

COME ON OVER!

WELCOME TO HAPPY IRL WORLD

KOMI! YOU WANNA JOIN ?!

NO! KOMI CAN'T JOIN!!
JOLT
...
SHAKE
SHAKE
Over-reacts to the words "No way!"
No way!
I MEAN, MY SKIN IS AWFUL TODAY!
No way!

RIGHT?
C'MON C'MON
AH HA HA! DON'T WORRY! WE'RE HAPPY TO INCLUDE YOU!

HEY! SHOW YOUR HAPPINESS THE NORMAL WAY!
N
WE'RE NOT WORTHY! WE'RE NOT WORTHY!
GOD IS GONNA SIT AMONGST US?!
K-KOMI...? OVER HERE?!

N-NAJIMI ?!

YAAAY!! CLAP CLAP CLAP

...AS KOMI STRUGGLES ?!

OR WILL YOU JUST SUCK YOUR THUMB ...

TADANO! BOOSTING YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS REQUIRES DRASTIC MEASURES!

C-CAN I JOIN TOO?

UM ...

...

L-LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE!

THAT'S PERFECT!

AH HA HA! AWESOME!

TADANO'S JOINING TOO?

OF COURSE! THE MORE THE MERRIER!

HUH?

I CAN READ THEIR THOUGHTS LOUD AND CLEAR!

GET LOST!

AH HA HA! WHAT A NUISANCE!

GET A CLUE, DUDE!

THE HECK?! I CAN'T BASH HIM IN FRONT OF HER HIGHNESS KOMI, BUT I WISH THAT SCUMBAG WOULD GET LOST! ☆

HUH?

THE SAITO GAME ISN'T FOR THE FAINT OF HEART, SO FIRST LET'S PLAY THE OX TONGUE GAME.

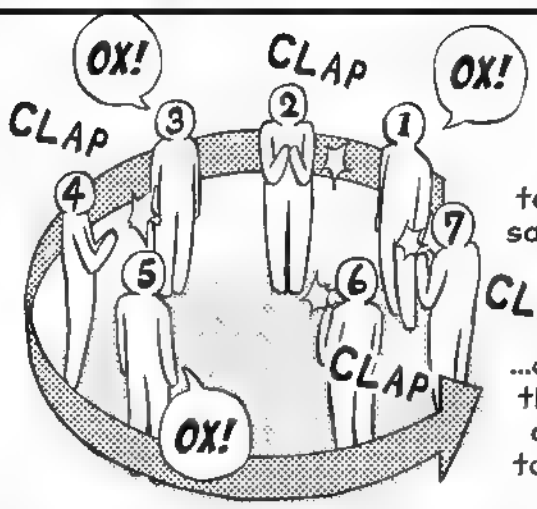
Stom-ach-ache

Komi and Tadano sat down with them.

The rules:

Everyone takes turns saying "Ox"...

...or clapping their hands according to a certain pattern.



The person after the third clap becomes another clap, so the number of claps at the end increases each round!

If you do the wrong thing or freeze up or break the rhythm, you lose!

GOT IT?

CLAP

OX!

CLAP

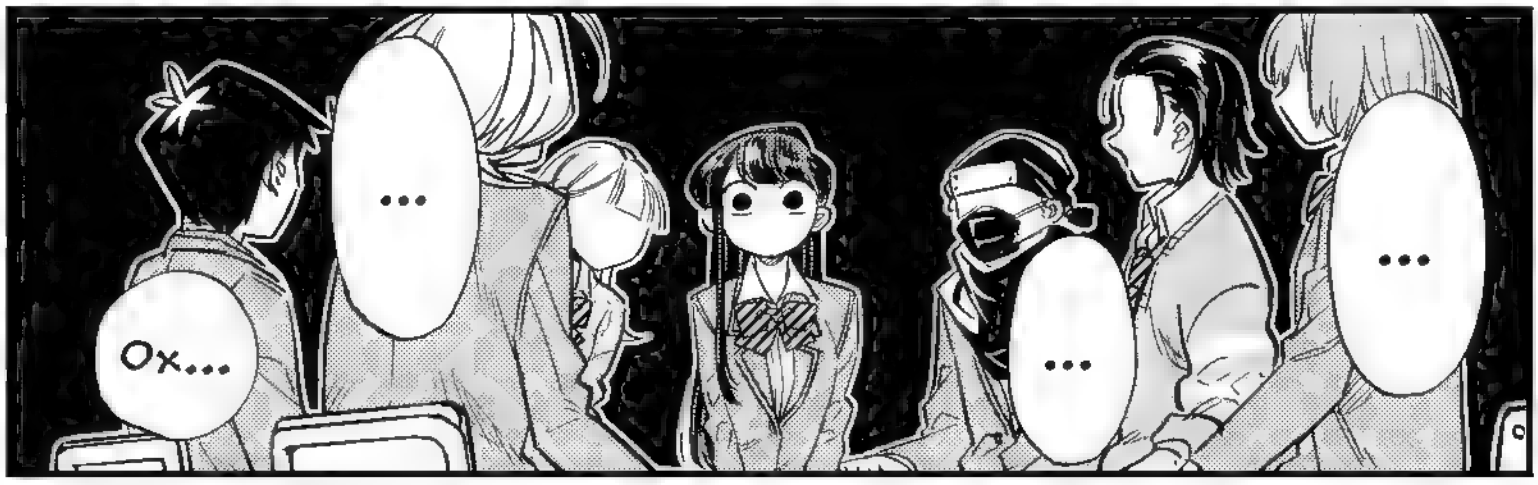
OX!

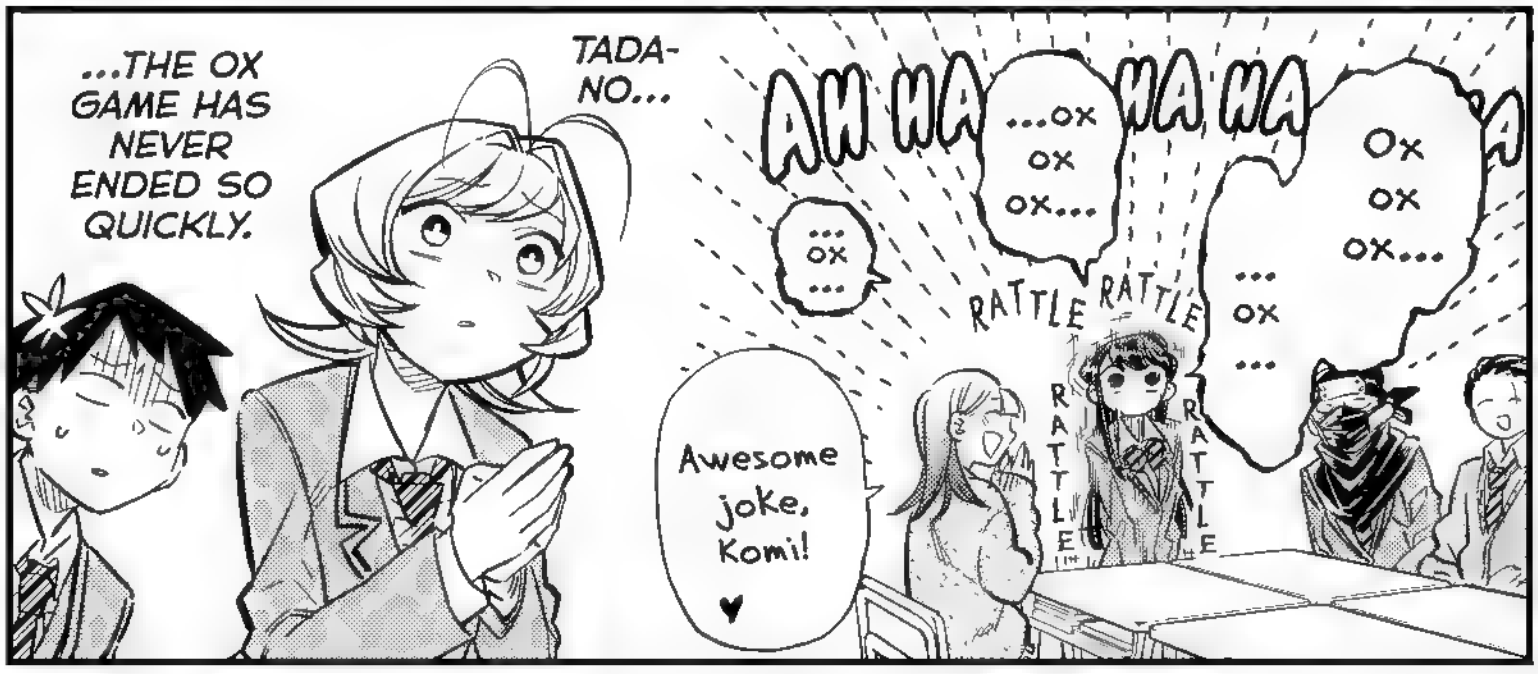
OKAY, I'LL START.

THEY'RE CHEERING ?!

YAAAY——!!

Chiarai
OX!
CLAP
Onigashima
CLAP
Sonoda
OX!
Shinobino
Komi
...
CLAP
Yamai
OX!
Tadano
CLAP
Osana


...
Ox...
...
...


...THE OX GAME HAS NEVER ENDED SO QUICKLY.
TADA-NO...
Awesome joke, Komi!
AH HA HA HA
...OX OX OX...
... OX ...
Ox OX OX...
... OX ...
RATTLE RATTLE
RATTLE RATTLE

HOW ABOUT THUMB-ERS?

...LET'S PLAY ANOTHER GAME!

UM ...

The rules:

Everyone holds out both fists and takes turns saying a certain phrase and guessing the number of raised thumbs.

Thumbers four!!

If the number you say is correct, you can take out one hand. The first person to take out both hands is the winner.

EASY, RIGHT?

YES! I WAS RIGHT!

HM?

LA-LA NINE!

OOPS. THAT WAS WRONG.

THUMB-ERS SIX!

N-NO, WAIT!

YA-YA-YA-YOW TEN!

The phrase differs from region to region...

ARGH!

READY, SET, GO FOUR!

HUH?

SEVEN!

CAN THEY DO THAT?

...but right now they're just saying whatever they want.

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....FIVE.

It's Komi's turn.

THEY MADE SURE SHE GOT IT RIGHT!!

SWUP

5
4
3
2
1

Tadano didn't get a chance to play.

Komi won.

Winner

CHAMP

!!

THE NEXT GAME COMES WITH A PUNISHMENT! MWA HA HA...

YOU'RE GETTING THE HANG OF IT!

A K-KISS FACE?!

THE LOSER HAS TO MAKE A KISSING FACE!!

BAM-BOO SHOOT!

Every-one but Komi was pumped up.

I GOTTA SEE THAT!!

...KOMI DO THAT!

I WANNA SEE...

NOW LET'S PLAY!

The numbers ascend in order. If you say the wrong number or are slow raising your hands, you lose. You have to watch your opponents closely and think!

ONE SHOOT!

TWO SHOOT!

You have to say a number and "Shoot!" while raising both hands as fast as you can!

The rules:

EVERYONE'S SUDDENLY MOTIVATED!!

TEE HEE!

KOMI'S KISS FACE?!

JOLT

JOLT

I MUST NOT FAIL!

READY ...

...SET ...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S BEGIN.

Watching idiots

WAAA AAAA AAAA AAAA AH!

ONE SHOOT!

WHUP

... GO!

After everyone made a kiss face and knelt to the ground, they started again.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S TRY AGAIN.

READY ...

...SET ...

...GO!

ONE SHOOT!

WHIP

HEY! NO FAIR!

Five shoots !!

Four shoots !!

Three shoots !!

Two sho

Six shoots !!

THEY REALLY WANNA SEE KOMI MAKE A KISSING FACE!!

UH-OH! THEY'VE GOT THIS DOWN!

WELL ...

...ONLY YOU TWO ARE LEFT!

THERE'S NO ESCAPE!

TADA-NO...

...VICTORY DEPENDS ...

...ON YOU!

T ?!

IF I WIN, KOMI HAS TO MAKE A KISS FACE!

...but ...

I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT...

NO!

SHE'D BE MORTIFIED! AND I WON'T BURDEN HER WITH THAT!

KOMI! SAY IT! SAY "SEVEN SHOOTS"!

...

OH NO! THIS IS A DISASTER !!

Doesn't under-stand the rules

...?

BUT HOW CAN I LOSE?!

Hurry up and win!

SURELY ...

... THERE'S SOME WAY ...

GASP

I THOUGHT OF A WAY, BUT...

NO, THAT'S... WELL... SHOULD I?

HMM... I'D RATHER NOT, BUT...

...M-MAYBE I SHOULD!

E...

EIGHT SHOOTS!

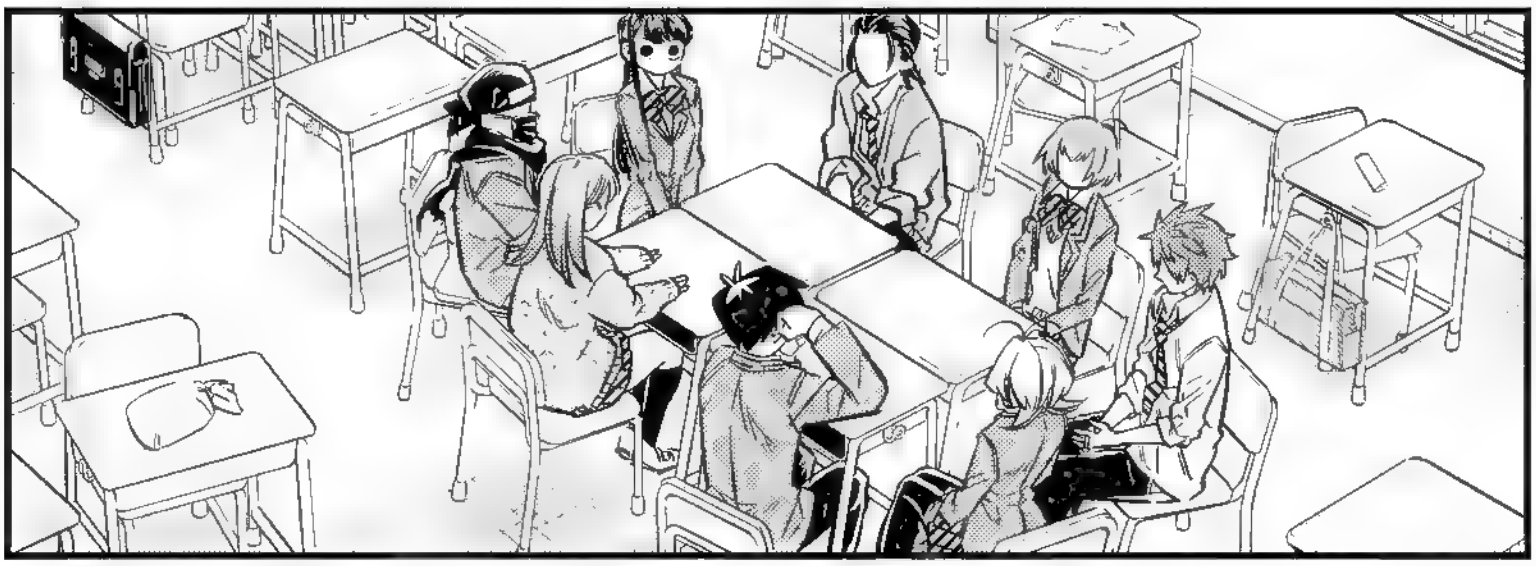
BONK

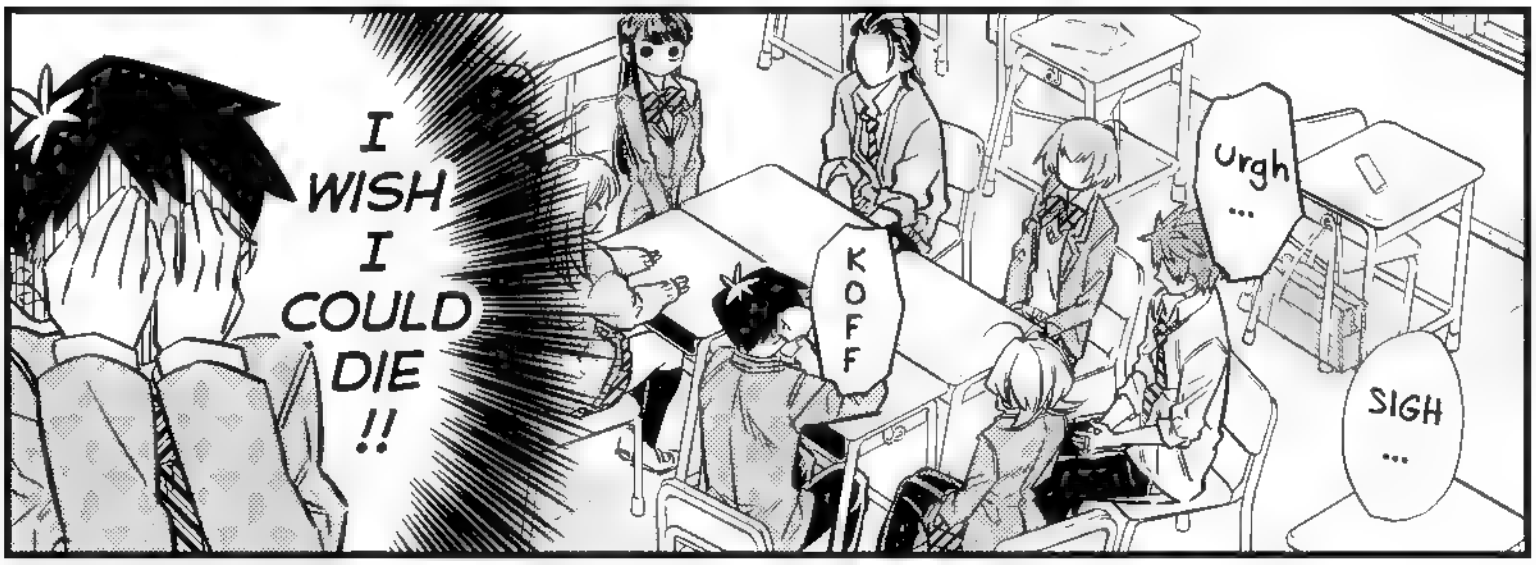
OOPS! SILLY ME! ☆

I SAID THE WRONG NUM-BER! ☆

Wishes he could die

THAT MEANS I LOSE! ☆




I WISH I COULD DIE !!
KOFF
Urgh ...
SIGH ...

SORRY, KOMI! WE'LL PLAY THE SAITO GAME NEXT TIME!

BING

CHAK

CHAK

BONG

BING

OH. IT'S TIME FOR CLASS.

They returned to their seats.

!

Are you all right?

?!

From the stress.

Y-YEAH! OTHER THAN WEARING A HOLE IN MY STOMACH...

Komi Can't Communicate vol. 1 — The End

Komi Can't Communicate

Komi Can't Communicate

Can She Make a Hundred Friends?

A Distant Gaze

SEE YA TOMOR-ROW, KOMI!
On the way home
You just mean video games, any-way...
TCH!
NO. AND NO.
...AND PLAY AROUND, TADANO?
WANNA COME TO MY HOUSE ...
HM?
YEAH!
HEY, HAVE YOU STOPPED TREMBLING WHEN YOU MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH KOMI?
OH... RIGHT.
BLUUH
BY LOOKING PAST HER, FAR INTO THE DISTANCE!
So no problem!

Komi Can't Communicate

VOL. 1
Shonen Sunday Edition

Story and Art by Tomohito Oda

English Translation & Adaptation/John Werry
Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Eve Grandt
Design/Julian [JR] Robinson
Editor/Pancha Diaz

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PARENTAL ADVISORY
KOMI CAN'T COMMUNICATE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up.

Tomohito Oda won the grand prize for *World Worst One* in the 70th Shogakukan New Comic Artist Awards in 2012. Oda's series *Digicon*, about a tough high school girl who finds herself in control of an alien with plans for world domination, ran from 2014 to 2015. In 2015, *Komi Can't Communicate* debuted as a one-shot in *Weekly Shonen Sunday* and was picked up as a full series by the same magazine in 2016.